■ BUSINESS / B1

Peso hits 4-month high at 55.26:$1, lifted by OFW remittances, yen rebound

■ ACROSS / A19

Cebu lawyers boycott Concom consultation

■ NEWS / A9

Hacienda Luisita union president shot to death

■ WORLD / A10

US black civil rights icon Rosa Parks is dead at 92

FVR: No snap polls; groups pushing for it headless

By Nikko Dizon and Juliet Labog-Javellana

A SNAP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 2007 aimed at cutting short the six-year term of President Macapagal-Arroyo will not happen because groups pushing for it are "headless" and "located only in a few major urban centers," former President Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday.

FVR / A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gloria critics shoot down proposal for coalition gov't

By TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

A COALITION GOVERNMENT MAY SOUND inviting but to arch critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo, it is nothing but political bait and they aren't biting.

"I support that. She should have a coalition

GLORIA CRITICS/ A22

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Wednesday, October 26, 2005 ★★★ 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 320 P18
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JOAN BONDOC

"NOT A KANGAROO COURT," says Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

A THOUGHTFUL PAUSE for President Arroyo at the opening rites of the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference. LYN RILLON

People's court to try GMA

Palace scoffs at latest opposition 'antic'

By Fe Zamora

COMES NOW A "PEOPLE'S COURT" TO HEAR the charges in the impeachment complaint that President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives threw out in September.

The "court," to be known as the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability, will hear accusations that Ms Arroyo stole the vote in the May 2004 presidential election, and committed acts of corruption and human rights violations—charges that she has denied.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona will lead the Citizens' Congress which, he said yesterday, would give Ms Arroyo a chance to defend herself.

He described it as "a people's court, fair and square, for the people and by the people," and "not a kangaroo court."

The Citizens' Congress was initiated by Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan, a multisectoral alliance of organizations questioning the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

A notice for the President's appearance at the Citizens' Congress will be delivered to the Palace today, according to lawyer Luis Sison of Bukluran.

The President, however, is not expected to be home. She will spend the day in Cebu where she has a number of engagements, including a visit to a bird sanctuary and the opening of the Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa.

Predictably, Malacañang parried the anti-Arroyo forces' lat-

PEOPLE'S/ A8

Good news for holidays, according to GMA

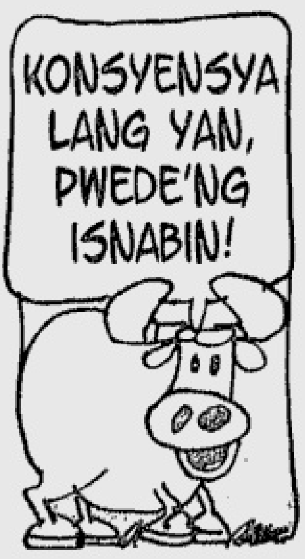
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THERE WILL BE "GOOD NEWS" for Filipinos this Christmas, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

She said among the things she planned to give the country is a new executive order that would allow front-line government agencies to operate on "emergency" mode and work more effectively.

"In the spirit of renewal, we shall direct the focus of government so that its bureaucracy will become more responsible to the call and needs of the times and the needs of the ordi-

GOOD/ A8



KONSYENSYA LANG YAN, PWEDE'NG ISNABIN!

Gonzalez ignores rights body

By Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño and Luige A. del Puerto

THERE HE GOES AGAIN.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's retort to a Commission on Human Rights (CHR) challenge to the Arroyo administration's crackdown on dissenters is to ignore it.

Gonzalez yesterday acknowledged that the CHR had "some moral suasion" in declaring on Monday that there was no legal basis for the government's adoption of the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy on protesters, the proclamation of Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola) as a no-rally zone and the requirement of

GONZALEZ/ A22

Bird flu info drive stepped up

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES IS GEARING up for a possible avian flu onslaught as birds begin migrating to the country to escape the winter in China and Mongolia.

Officials said the virus had so far infected 118 people in Asia, of whom 61 had died, mostly in Thailand and Vietnam. *(See story in The World, Page A10.)*

Dr. Luningning Villa, a program manager for the Department of Health, said at least 40 locations with high poultry populations were being targeted under a P60-million information program to prevent an outbreak of the disease and educate people on how to handle it.

The areas include the Candaba swamp, Liguasan marsh, Olango, Lake Naujan, Pagudpud, Zamboanga, Panay, Capiz and Palawan. These areas have large numbers of migratory birds or

BIRD FLU/ A9

DEEP in prayer, two Filipino Muslims observe the rites of Ramadan, which ends Nov.4. REM ZAMORA

UN STUDY

Anti-Muslim biases fuel conflict in South

By Volt Contreras

SAY YOU'RE THE BOSS, AND YOU have to choose between two equally competent job applicants. Whom would you hire—one named Danilo de los Reyes or the other named Abu Hassin Malik?

It's the kind of question raised by a United Nations-sponsored study "confirming" that "anti-Muslim biases" persist in the country. And these biases appear to be fueling the 35-year-old armed conflict in Mindanao.

The majority—or 55 percent—of Filipinos "think Muslims are more prone to run amok (or *huramentado*)," the study said, citing the results of a nationwide survey in which respondents were asked whether they agreed to certain Muslim "stereotypes."

Forty-seven percent "think Muslims are terrorists or extremists," and 44 percent believe Muslims "harbor hatred toward non-Muslims," according to a March 2005 Pulse Asia survey that formed part of the 2005 Philippine Human Development Report.

"Large pluralities" also indicated they would hire employees or domestic workers, accept boarders, or live next to neighbors who had Christian-, rather than Muslim-sounding, names, the study said.

A disturbing finding is that only 14 percent of those polled based their answers on personal encounters with Muslims, while the rest based theirs on the experience of friends and relatives or what they had learned from the media.

The report—the fifth produced by the Human Development Network (HDN) since 1994—was presented to the media yesterday. It was sponsored by the UN Development Programme and the New Zealand Agency for International Development.

This year's edition focused on ideology-based conflicts—particularly the Moro and communist armed

ANTI-MUSLIM/ A22

RP's poorest provinces like Africa, richest like Jamaica

By Volt Contreras

THE COUNTRY'S POOREST provinces have conditions already approximating those in some African countries, while the most progressive ones are just at par with Jamaica or Turkmenistan.

A United Nations-sponsored study gave this analogy in ranking the "Top- and Bottom-10" provinces in terms of their Human Development Index, a measure of well-being based on life expectancy, literacy, enrollment ratio and per capita income.

The 2005 Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) said the Top 10 provinces were as follows (from highest to lowest): Benguet, Laguna, Batanes, Rizal, Cavite, Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Ilocos Norte.

The bottom-dwellers, in descending order, were Lanao del Sur, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Sarangani, Zamboanga del Norte, Masbate, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Sulu.

The 150-page PHDR was released yesterday by the Human Development Network, a nonprofit group supported in the project by the United Nations Development Programme and the New Zealand Agency for International Development.

The HDI ranking of 77 provinces does not include Metro Manila since it is not considered a province but a group of cities that enjoy a decided advantage, being the seat of the country's political and economic power, HDN coordinator Toby Monsod said.

The UN defines human development as "the process of enabling people to have wider choices."

The latest PHDR—the fifth undertaken by HDN since 1994—is consistent with previous findings that the country's poorest provinces were also the "most

RP'S POOREST/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/26/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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JDV scuttles Pichay challenge

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

THE POLITICAL STORM spawned by Rep. Prospero Pichay's reported bid to oust House Speaker Jose de Venecia is over, after the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino decided to merge with the ruling Lakas-CMD party.

DE VENECIA

PICHAY

De Venecia, the Lakas president, told the INQUIRER yesterday that he and Kampi president Rep. Ronaldo Puno had quietly signed an agreement last week for Kampi to join the ruling party.

This would allow members of Kampi, the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to assume some of the most powerful leadership posts in the House.

Confirming the merger, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that Kampi had agreed to "re-affiliate and merge with Lakas to bring about one solid dominant political party in the House of Representatives supportive of President Arroyo."

"This gave the dominant party new strength and paved the way for a smooth reorganization of House committees in the chamber," said Nograles.

The merger effectively scuttled Pichay's bid for the speakership as he would have needed the backing of Kampi and "moderate members of the minority" led by Rep. Ronaldo Zamora to succeed in toppling De Venecia.

Pichay, who heads the 12-man House contingent in the congressional Commission on Appointments and is Ms Arroyo's staunchest defender in the lower chamber, has reportedly been secretly working to wrest the speakership from De Venecia.

Opposition Representatives Rolex Suplico and Jacinto Paras disclosed the secret plan to reporters last Thursday.

Reached by phone last Sunday, Pichay neither confirmed nor denied the ouster move, saying "I'm keeping my options open."

"But when the time comes that I will make my decision, I will be man enough to talk to the Speaker," he said.

Yesterday, after an island-hopping swing through Mindanao and Visayas over the weekend, Pichay said he was "amazed at the number of people calling me, urging me to run."

De Venecia said the merger with Kampi "sealed the alliance" and prevented the Lakas-CMD and its allied political parties under the "Sunshine Coalition" from breaking up.

The Speaker said the "post-impeachment adjustments" in various House committees that had dragged on for weeks would be completed before Nov. 3 in time for the resumption of sessions on Nov. 7.

But a congressional ally of De Venecia said he does not believe that the ouster move was a direct consequence of the failed impeachment bid, where ruling coalition members insisted that some of administration representatives in House leadership positions who supported the complaint against the President should be replaced in the interest of party discipline.

"It may be disguised as such," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco.

"But the truth is, it is a naked desire for more power for some who are disgruntled about the power-sharing of the major parties within the coalition. The discipline line is just a convenient subterfuge and easy pretext by these people ranting and raving for power," he said.

Cuenco said the move to oust De Venecia could result in a weakening of institutional support for the President in Congress.

He said the challenge from Pichay could have given rise to an awkward situation in which administration representatives would occupy the top majority and minority positions in the House.

He explained that if Pichay should seek the speakership, he would likely get the second most number of votes. Under the House rules, he would get the minority leadership, easing out Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Rolex Suplico said there was a need for the minority to talk to both De Venecia and Pichay because of the prospect of two members of the ruling coalition taking both the majority and minority leadership positions in the House.

"We are aware of the danger that the next minority leader may be the leader of a company union," he said.

Cuenco maintained that De Venecia enjoyed both the "numerical and moral superiority" and remained the President's most reliable ally.

"Malacañang can neither support nor nurture such a scheme," he said, adding that he expected the plot against De Venecia to fail.

But Malacañang was reportedly irked when De Venecia suggested that Ms Arroyo cut short her term by three years to allow for the transition to a parliamentary system in 2007 as expected in an amended Charter.

Gonzales needs heart surgery, says Senate doc

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE PHYSICIAN YESTERDAY concluded that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales needed "continued medical attention" and heart surgery, giving rise to speculations that the Senate would soon release him from custody.

Dr. Mariano Blancia Jr., chief of the Senate's medical and dental service, made this conclusion after visiting Gonzales at the Philippine Heart Center and conferring with his cardiologist.

He said he talked with the cardiologist, Dr. Jose Yulde, who said that Gonzales was suffering from coronary artery disease, hypertensive cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus type 2 and peripheral arterial occlusive disease.

"An advice then to undergo heart surgery was made," Blancia said in a medical report that he submitted to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Blancia also visited Gonzales in his room and asked him what he thought about the surgical procedure being contemplated for him.

"He replied that he wanted to seek additional opinion here and abroad. In fact he sent his laboratory and other diagnostic procedures to get another opinion abroad," he said.

Based on these findings and Yulde's assessment "we conclude that Secretary Gonzales still requires continued medical attention," Blancia said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the House blue ribbon committee that ordered Gonzales' detention, said that the medical report would be seriously considered in the committee's deliberations on Gonzales.

"The thing is the medical consideration is naturally very strong. The guy is sick. It's a very strong element... but there's no decision yet," he said, adding that he would summon Blancia to explain his report.

He indicated the Senate would likely decide on Gonzales' fate before the body adjourns today.

Earlier, Drilon said the blue ribbon committee would meet again to discuss the medical report and decide on its next course of action.

"The committee is examining all the options that is available to the committee. We will review the entire situation," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Arroyo denied reports that the Senate had lifted its order to detain Gonzales.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Senate was sending its own physician yesterday to examine Gonzales at the Philippine Heart Center.

Gonzales ran afoul of the committee members during a hearing on Sept. 21 on the Senate inquiry into a contract with the US lobby firm Venable LLP to seek US government grants for certain Philippine projects, including Charter change.

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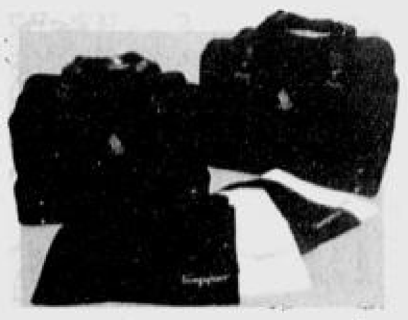

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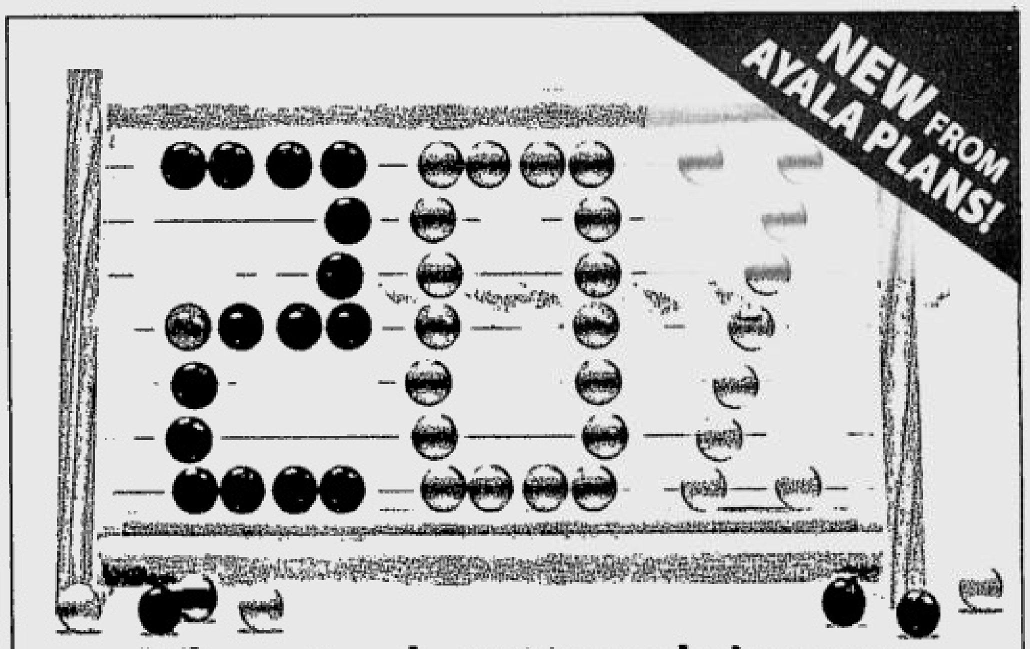

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PAL to fly Manila-Beijing route again after 16-year hiatus

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES WILL resume direct flights between Manila and Beijing next month after a 16-year hiatus in hopes of attracting more Chinese visitors, the company said yesterday.

The thrice-weekly flights will begin Nov. 11, PAL said in a statement.

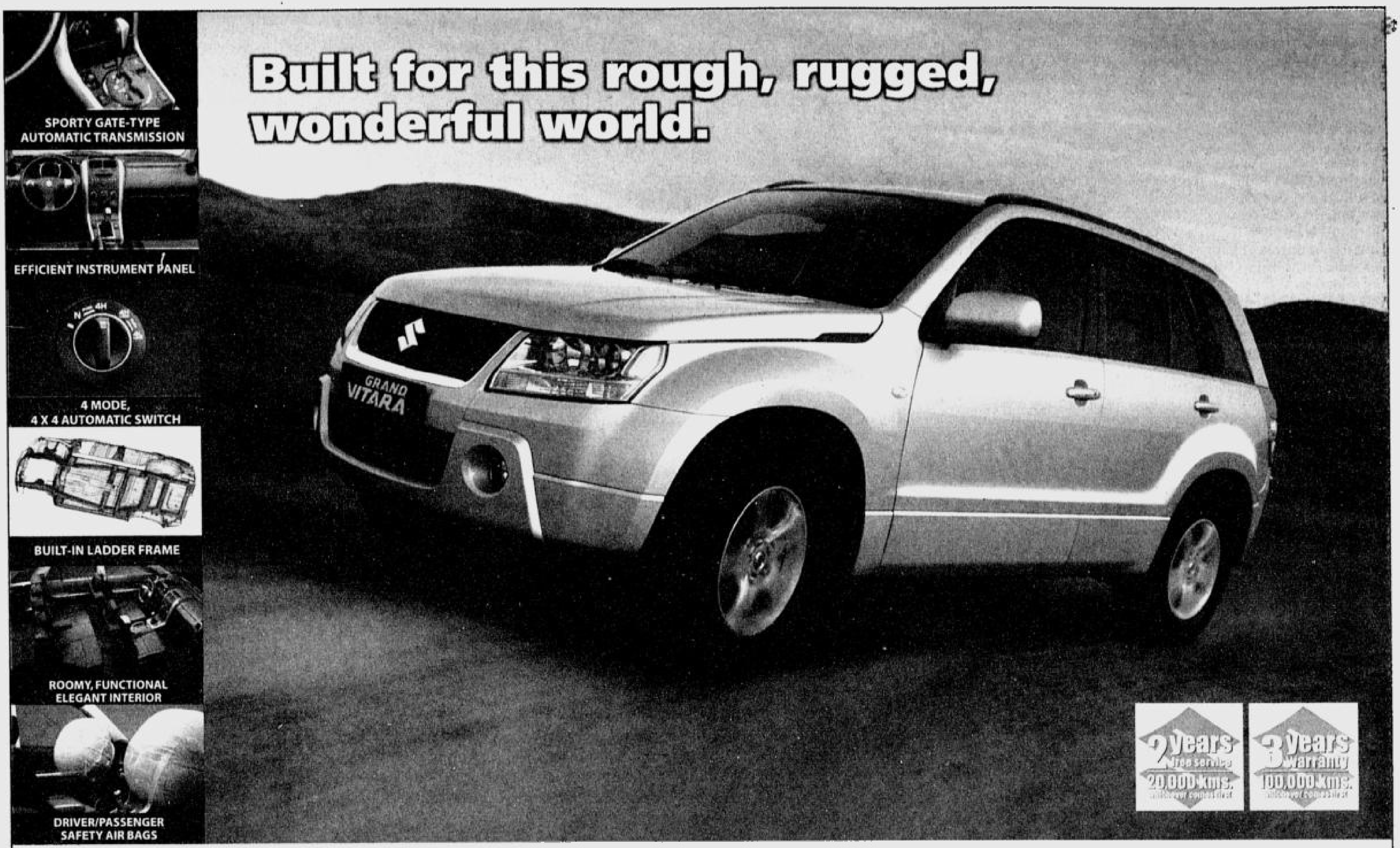
Beijing will become the airline's third destination in China, after Shanghai and Xiamen.

The World Tourism Organization estimates that the number of Chinese traveling overseas will soar from the current 10 million a year to 50 million by 2010, and to 100 million by 2020, making China the leading source of tourists worldwide.

"The Philippines has yet to take advantage of this booming traffic," Philippine Airlines said, noting that in the first six months of 2005, the country received only 55,426 visitors from China.

Philippine Airlines suffered a financial crisis in the late 1980s and suspended flights to Beijing in 1989.

It currently flies to 26 destinations in 14 countries and territories, in addition to 19 cities in the Philippines. *AP*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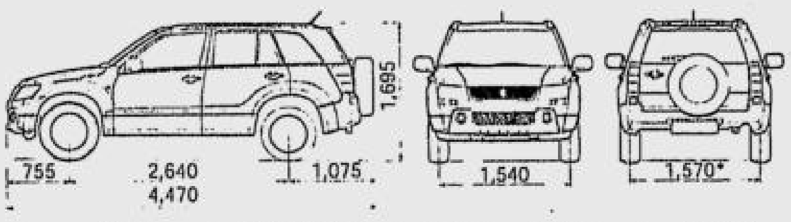

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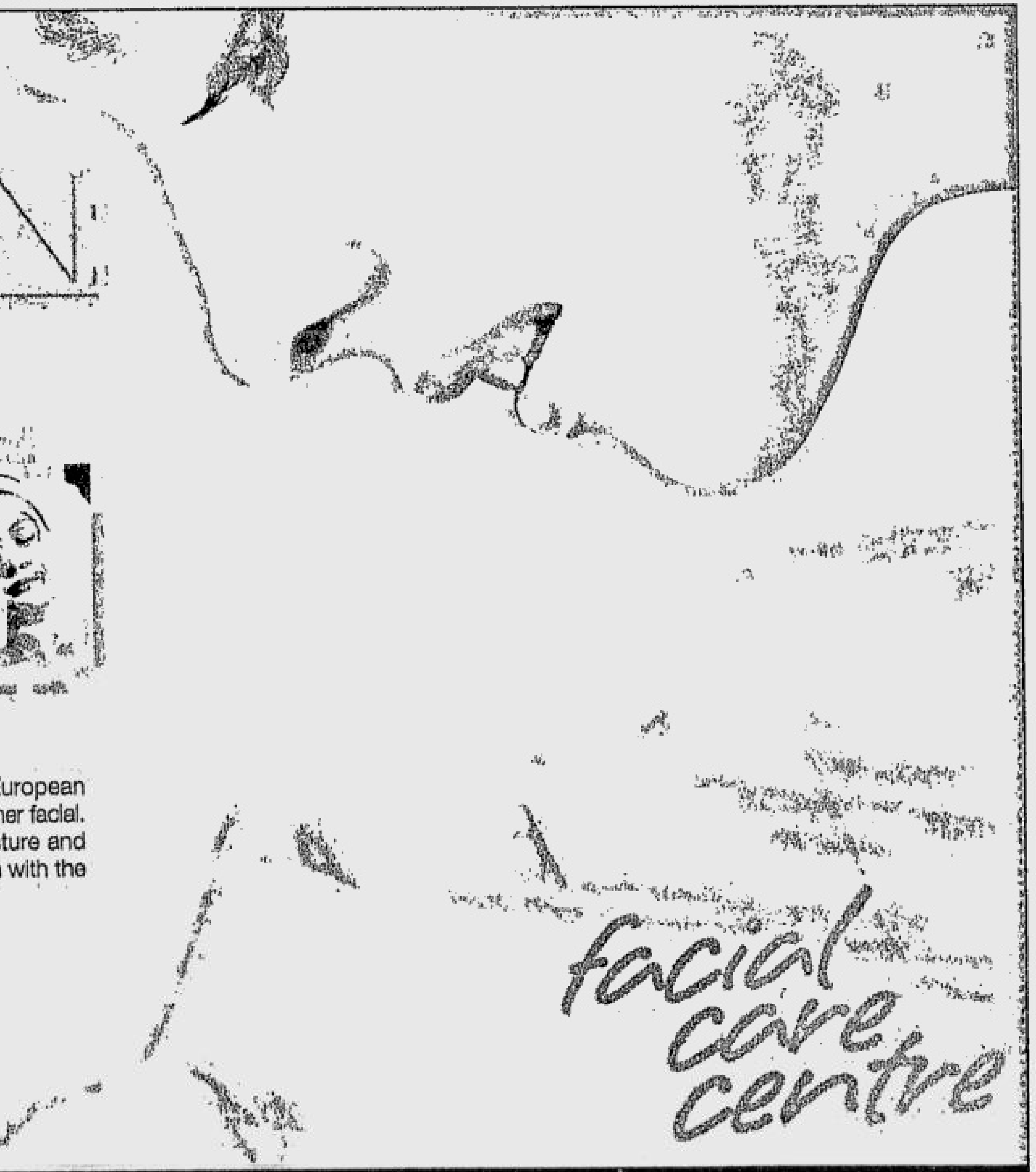

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Blackout hits parts of Metro, Naia

By Abigail L. Ho

A POWER OUTAGE LASTING CLOSE TO two hours hit southern Metro Manila and portions of Laguna province late yesterday morning after a National Transmission Corp. (Transco) line and three transformers in the Sucat, Parañaque City, area tripped.

At 11:30 a.m., state-run Transco encountered problems with its Sucat-Araneta 230-kilovolt line and three 300-megavolt-ampere transformers at its Sucat substation.

Three power plants—the 700-megawatt (MW) Pagbilao, the 1,200-MW Sual and the 350-MW Kalayaan, which together contribute 700 MW to the grid—were then temporarily disconnected from the system.

Feeder loads of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) at the Zapote, Las Piñas City, substation also tripped.

This resulted in power outages in the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas and Parañaque and parts of Laguna.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, some flights were delayed at the domestic and international terminals.

The operations of the Light Rail Transit on taft Avenue and the Metro Rail Transit 3 line on Edsa were interrupted around noon, leaving commuters stranded or forced to seek other modes of transportation.

The Makati Central Business District had no power for at least an hour, with most business and commercial establishments having to turn on their electric generators.

While Transco was able to restart its Sucat-Araneta line some 20 minutes after it tripped, it took nearly an hour more before all its lines and transformers were completely back in service.

Meralco then proceeded to shift the load of major portions of its south grid, where possible, to facilitate faster power restoration. This entailed resetting all its substations, including the priming of its electric system to balance generation and demand from a zero-voltage condition.

Power was completely restored at 1:05 p.m.

As of press time, Transco said the reason for the tripping was still being determined.

AIRPORT personnel and arriving passengers sort out luggage at the baggage carousel during the one-hour power shortage. ROGER MAGALLO

Imelda jewelry auction to become tourist event

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON Good Government has decided to hold its planned auction of former First Lady Imelda Marcos' jewelry in Manila and wants to turn the event into a tourist come-on.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede had said earlier that he expected the jewelry, initially estimated at $10 million, to fetch as much as $150 million in an international auction because of the world's fascination with Imelda's mystique.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Abcede said he was talking to three international auction houses to coordinate the project with Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, Presidential tourism adviser Art Lopez and other industry officials to turn the auction into an important tourist event.

"This is probably the first time the Philippines will be the site of a prestigious auction," Abcede said. "It will put the country on the map of the international auction scene."

He said the influx of tourists during the auction could bring in much-needed revenues for the government. That is why, he added, he was pushing to have the auction in March to attract people attending the International Jewelers Fair in Hong Kong during the same month.

Apart from the projected tourist receipts, Abcede said that holding the auction in the Philippines would ensure that taxes collected from the sale would go to the Philippine government, which would not be the case if the auction were to be held elsewhere.

Three international auction houses have expressed willingness to put the three Marcos jewelry collections on the auction block. These are Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams.

Abcede said Bonhams might have an edge over the two others because it has already agreed to hold the sale in the Philippines.

In addition, according to Abcede, Bonhams has agreed to waive its 20 percent seller's commission. "Because of these suggestions, they are at an advantage. And I think Customs Commissioner (Alex) Arevalo is also in favor," he said.

Abcede said he still had to hear from representatives of Sotheby's and Christie's on a possible counteroffer. Both houses account for the majority of major international auctions.

Abcede said he was not discounting the possibility that a local firm could win the bid to auction off the jewelry. "But first, these firms must show us they have the funds, the expertise and the capability to carry out the auction. They have to pre-qualify first," he said.

The PCGG is in possession of two of the three Marcos jewelry collections. These are the Malacañang collection, which consists of jewelry recovered from the Palace after the Marcoses fled in 1986, and the Honolulu collection which was confiscated by US authorities when the Marcoses landed in Hawaii. The Bureau of Customs has the third collection, the Roumeliotes collection, which was confiscated by customs authorities at the Manila International Airport in 1986 from Greek Demetriou Roumeliotes.

Abcede said the PCGG has already the terms of reference for the auction that will be submitted to the three auction houses. Among the more important provisions of the terms of reference, he added, is the "buy one, buy all" provision. Under this rule, individual jewelry pieces belonging to a set cannot be sold separately from their sets.

Abcede said the PCGG would also ask the three auction houses to submit their guaranteed minimum prices for the three collections based on their own appraisals.

He explained that the auction houses will be judged according to a point system. Each auction house will garner points based on its compliance with the terms of reference, with the guaranteed minimum price accounting for 50 percent of the points. The other 50 percent will come from other factors.

Other provisions of the terms of reference are insurance coverage and the consignment agreement. "Once the jewelry is taken out of the vault, they should be immediately covered by insurance in case anything happens," Abcede said.

Speedy resolution of Erap case to ease tensions—Chavit

ONLY A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE PLUNDER case of former President Joseph Estrada would end the tension between the Arroyo administration and the Estrada camp, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said yesterday.

Singson, the whistle-blower in the "jueteng" scandal that led to the ouster of Estrada and his trial for plunder, said granting bail to the deposed leader would only widen the gap between pro- and anti-Estrada factions and worsen the political instability already rocking the country.

"While granting bail to Estrada would no doubt appease his supporters, it would inevitably provoke those who feel he has wronged the country. So instead of promoting political stability, it would polarize Filipinos further," he said in a press statement.

The governor was reacting to a statement of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was quoted as saying granting Estrada's petition for bail would contribute to the political stability in the country.

Santiago made the comment after Manila Mayor Lito Atienza appealed to the government to reconsider Estrada's petition for bail in the interest of reconciliation. The Sandiganbayan earlier rejected Estrada's petition for bail.

Santiago said she supported the mayor's position.

"I have the highest respect for Senator Santiago," Singson said. "But I believe that only a speedy resolution of the case could end the tensions between the administration and Estrada's supporters and bring about political instability. As I have said so many times before, I don't care how the case ends as long as it is decided on its merits based on the evidence and the testimony of the witnesses. We must show the whole world that our system of justice applies to every one, including the high and mighty."

Loren attack uncalled for, says Noli's lawyer

"BASELESS AND UNCALLED FOR."

This was the response of Vice President Noli de Castro's lawyer, Jesse Andres, to remarks made by former Sen. Loren Legarda against De Castro.

On Monday, the INQUIRER reported Legarda saying that the Vice President has not shown "any ability for parliamentary work during his short stint as senator" and "if he really wants to serve the people, he should resign."

Andres said De Castro was confident in his ability to lead and be a genuine public servant.

"*Lalong alam ito ng mga taong naghalal, sumusuporta at nagtitiwala sa kanya* (The people who voted, supported and trust him know this)," he said.

De Castro received the highest approval ratings among his contemporaries in the last 12th Congress, as taken by different survey firms.

Andres cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey where De Castro got the highest approval rating with 74 percent of respondents confident that he was capable of governing the country.

The Vice President has the highest satisfaction rating among top government officials, according to the survey, with 60 percent of Filipinos satisfied with his performance.

"*Sa sinabing ito ni Loren, ito ay pagmamaliit sa kakayahang ng taumbayan na pumili ng kanilang pinuno* (Loren has insulted and belittled our countrymen's ability to choose their public officials), Andres said.

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Showbiz doctor faces tax evasion charges

By Philip C. Tubeza

A POPULAR "DOCTOR TO THE STARS" is in hot water after the Department of Justice decided to file tax evasion charges against him yesterday for allegedly lying about his true income and not paying the government P3.38 million in income taxes.

State Prosecutor Juan Navera said Dr. Joel Cortez Mendez would be charged with three counts of tax evasion in the Court of Tax Appeals for not filing any income tax return in 2001 and 2002 and for failing to supply the Bureau of Internal Revenue with correct and accurate information about his income.

Mendez owns the Mendez Body and Face Salons and Spas, the Mendez Medical Group, and the Weigh Less Center and Spa which cater mostly to socialites as well as television and show business personalities.

Mendez's "consistent non-filing of income tax returns, in addition to the non-declaration of his true income, constitutes willful and fraudulent intent to evade and defeat the payment of his income taxes which are due to the government," Navera said in an eight-page resolution.

Navera said Mendez failed to pay P3,379,041.65 in income taxes—including penalties, surcharges and interest—and did not declare "all his income" from all branches of his Weigh Less Center and Spa business.

"His failure to file a consolidated return for his income from all of his branches and the failure to supply correct and accurate information as to his true income are matters that behooved (him) to address in his pleadings but (he) failed to do so," Navera said.

Mendez "willfully evaded and defeated his obligations as a taxpayer by his failure to file his annual Income Tax Return for the covered taxable years in question, resulting in his failure to declare his true income and to pay correct taxes due thereon," he added.

Mendez pinned the blame for his woes on his accountant, Richard Bianan, whom he accused of having "misappropriated the money" intended for tax payments. Mendez said he had filed charges of estafa against Bianan in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

But Navera dismissed Mendez's defense as "hackneyed" and "frivolous excuses," saying that the doctor was "fully aware of a legal duty to file his income tax returns."

In initiating the charges against Mendez, the BIR said that apart from not filing his 2001 and 2002 income tax returns the doctor under-declared his 2003 taxable income and did not declare sales made by his business outlets that same year.

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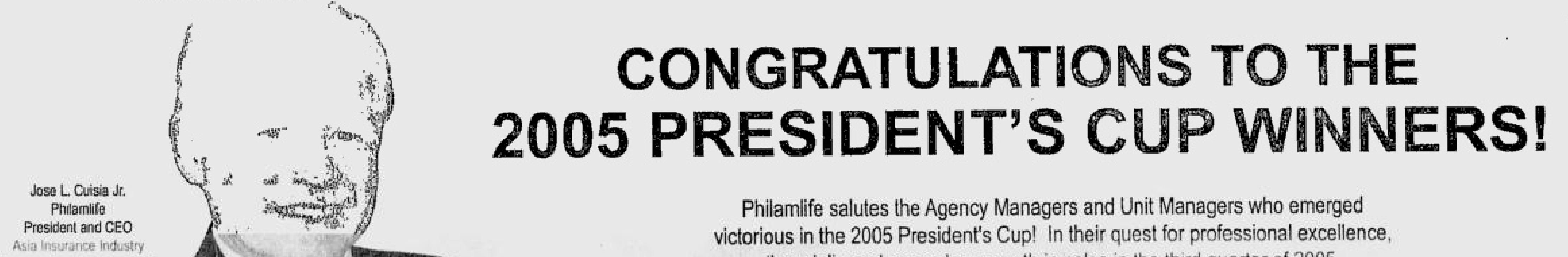

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LGUs meet to set curbs on cybersex

By Luige A. del Puerto

A PEDOPHILE CHECKS INTO AN INTERNET cafe, logs onto a website, and starts downloading nude photos of children.

Or from the privacy of his home, he logs onto a website—maintained somewhere in the Philippines—and begins to watch a streaming video of children performing lewd acts.

Under Philippine laws, not much can be done about the Internet cafe or the pedophile.

The police had raided several such establishments but efforts to prosecute their owners had largely failed. And the police are not wont to enter a person's home without a warrant.

But not for long—hopefully.

Representatives of local government units in Metro Manila and its outskirts and officials of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes (OSETC) met yesterday in Camp Crame, Quezon City, to discuss a draft ordinance that, once enacted, would give LGUs the teeth to clamp down on cybersex dens and regulate the operation of Internet cafes.

"Child pornography in the Philippines is severe," Alberto Muyot of Unicef's Child Protection Section told the INQUIRER. "We cannot wait for a republic act."

Local response

OSETC chief Florencio Fianza said the ordinance could "serve as the first line of defense against the sexual exploitation of Filipino children."

"This is a local response to a global problem, and we sought out the LGUs because they can address this faster," Fianza said.

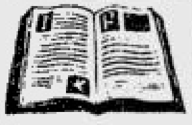
He noted that many of those who establish cybersex dens in the Philippines come from western countries, taking advantage of the lack of laws against Internet pornography here.

"If it gets too hot for them here, they simply leave. Now if we could only enact this ordinance, if we could put them in jail for at least six months—and I tell you jail in the Philippines is no bed of roses—that would make them think twice about coming here," Fianza said.

Under the ordinance, the owner of an Internet cafe must maintain a centralized users' logbook, ensure that the Internet rooms are visible to the public, and refuse entry to children during school hours.

The draft says it shall be unlawful to "perform or exhibit in front of a digital camera, computer video camera, camera-equipped mobile phone, webcam" sexual intercourse and other lewd acts.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, October 26, 2005
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:26-30
Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'

"Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

"You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

Commentary

Jesus leaves the synagogue and continues on his way (towards the cross) and someone wants to know if only a few are going to be saved. Jesus warns them to enter by the narrow door—the way of the cross, the way of the good news to the poor, laying up treasure in heaven and following him. It will be harder any other way. We can walk with Jesus and yet not follow in his footsteps, but keep our distance and not allow our hearts to belong to him in obedience. Many will be left outside, but by their own choice—Jesus keeps preaching to all who have ears to hear and open hearts until the very end. Do we hear and obey? So many have heard from the east and west—so many have responded but oftentimes those who are closest and consider themselves already 'in' and saved are nowhere near the kingdom or Jesus in their actions and priorities. And what about us—do we walk the way with Jesus or are we hesitant to follow?

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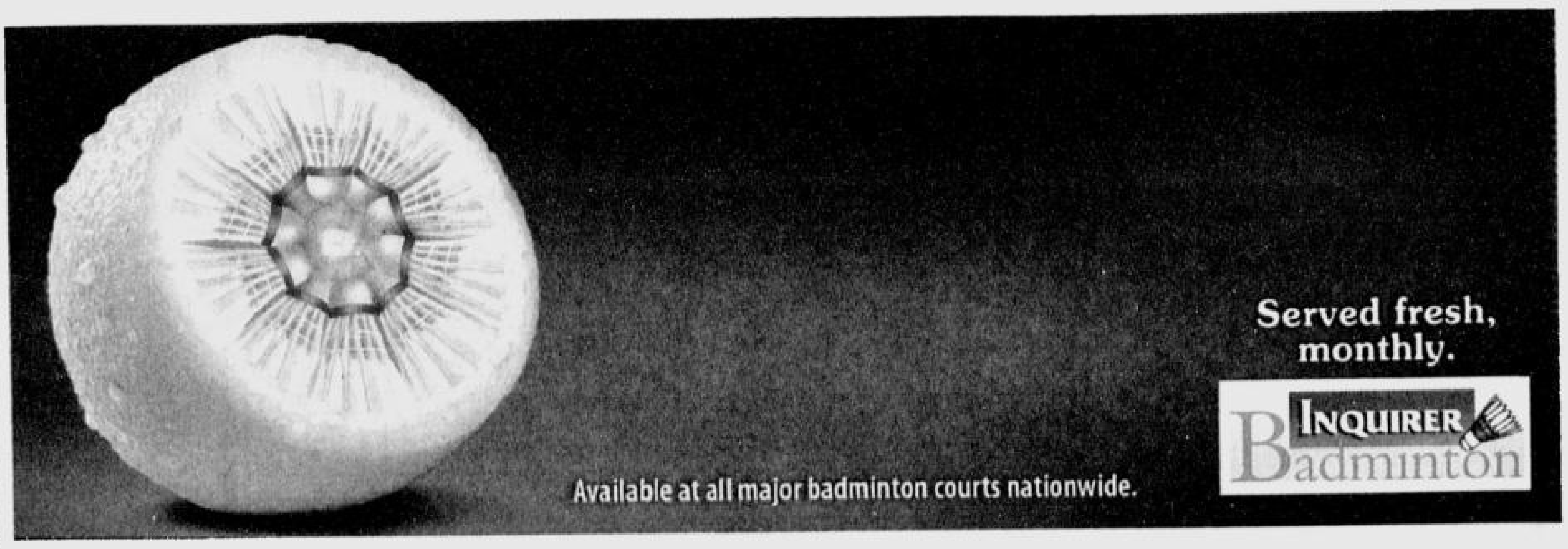

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13 Magdalo officers air support for President

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THIRTEEN OF THE 96 JUNIOR officers who led the 2003 Oakwood mutiny have issued a manifesto expressing support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, two of the so-called core leaders said yesterday.

Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, who are among the leaders of the "Magdalo" group, were allowed to appear in an ANC television program to say that they had apologized to the President for a second time.

"We just want to put closure to this Magdalo myth. As we see it, we're becoming a nuisance," Maestrecampo said. "Whatever our mistakes are, it's up to the courts to decide. We're not getting deals here."

Gambala denied he and his comrades had been coached into issuing the statement.

"That's very hard to explain. They really don't know us. Our allegiance to our commander and to the Armed Forces comes from within," he said.

Gambala said he and his colleagues were willing to accept whatever verdict the courts would hand down on them. "But I hope the penalty would be lowered," he added.

The 13 officers, all from the Army, signed the manifesto on Sept. 21—the day the Arroyo administration announced a get-tough policy on dissenters that had been denounced by restive elements in the Armed Forces.

Showing none of the bravado they had displayed during the July 27, 2003, stand-off in the Makati financial district, Gambala and Maestrecampo said they had come to rethink their position while in detention.

They said they coursed their statement through Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Their TV appearance marked the first time that Magdalo officers were allowed by the military leadership to talk to the media.

Gambala and Maestrecampo were among the six core leaders who apologized to the President on behalf of the entire Magdalo group in September 2004.

The 96 junior officers are facing court-martial for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Of these, 27 alleged core leaders, including Gambala and Maestrecampo, are being tried in a Makati court.

The 13 junior officers who signed the manifesto are acting against the wishes of the majority.

"We have differences in views at this point in time," Maestrecampo said when asked why one of the prominent coup leaders, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV did not join them.

Their manifesto of support contradicted the Magdalo officers' stance before the court-martial. During the hearings on Sept. 26 and Oct. 10, the officers, including Gambala and Maestrecampo, had refused to enter a plea, in protest of the entire proceedings.

On Oct. 12, six of the core leaders fired their longtime lawyer Roel Pulido citing "conflict of interest."

People's court to try GMA

From page A1

est effort to reopen the impeachment issue.

"This is just one of their antics to get media attention," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's political adviser, said the Citizens' Congress was but "the latest item on the opposition's never-ending menu to oust the President at all cost."

"They insult Congress by usurping its function and authority over the impeachment process, which has been constitutionally undertaken and concluded," Claudio said.

Opposition lawmakers filed in July an amended impeachment complaint against the President—after two complaints were earlier filed—but her allies quashed it by a vote of 158-51 on Sept. 6.

The killing of the impeachment case has fueled the political crisis gripping the country since June.

Alternative to Congress

Maria Serena Diokno, history professor at the University of the Philippines and one of the convenors of the Citizens' Congress, said it was "a process of [raising the consciousness of] the people and inform[ing] them about what really happened."

"This is an alternative to Congress, which junked the [impeachment] complaint," Diokno said.

According to human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, the Citizens' Congress has a constitutional basis: Article XIII, Section 15, which recognizes "the role of independent people's organizations to pursue and protect within the democratic framework their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means."

"It is an alternative forum, which has become necessary because of the impotence and failure of the traditional institutions and processes of constitutional democracy to address and redress the serious charges... which, if shown to be true, would make Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unfit, disqualified and illegitimate," Capulong said.

He said the Citizens' Congress would evaluate the evidence in the Articles of Impeachment that opposition congressmen had turned over to Bukluran's Br. Armin Luistro FSC.

3 main charges

Capulong said there would be three main charges: Electoral fraud, as supposedly exposed in the "Hello, Garci" tape containing conversations between the President and an election officer believed to be Virgilio Garcillano; political killings and human rights violations, and plunder and graft.

The hearings will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 8 and 9 at the University of the Philippines, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 16 at the University of Makati.

The Citizens' Congress will have 400 delegates coming from various sectors of society. It will be headed by a set of presiding officers—or Presidium—to be led by Guingona and backed by a team of lawyer-delegates who will assist in the examination of the evidence.

Among the members of the Presidium are Capulong, who has served in the United Nations' Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia territory and is the current chair of the Committee of Filipino Migrant Workers' Rights; Nasser Marohomsalik, formerly with the Commission on Human Rights and the Regional Consultative Commission for Muslim Mindanao; Victoria Avena, formerly with the Presidential Commission for Good Government; Bishop Alberto Ramiento, cochair of the Ecumenical Bishops Forum; Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz Duremdes, secretary general of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines; Bishop Dan Balais of the Jesus is Lord Movement; Menchie Caragdag of Peace for Life; Neri Colmenares of the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers, and Glenda Litong of the Alternative Law Group.

To the people

The convenors of the Citizens' Congress said its final report and recommendations would be submitted to the people and distributed to religious institutions, schools, public agencies and offices such as Congress and the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as appropriate international bodies.

Guingona said Ms Arroyo would be sent "notices" to explain her side before the "court."

If Ms Arroyo snubs the proceedings, the Citizens' Congress will proceed with the presentation of evidence, like any other court procedure, he said.

The President may also send "her voluble secretary of justice or her most trusted lawyer from The Firm to participate, present her side and help ensure that due process is observed," Capulong said in reference to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the Villaraza and Angcangco law firm, which handles the First Family's legal affairs.

Asked whether Malacañang intended to block the planned serving today of the notice for the President to appear at the Citizens' Congress, Bunye said he did not know. He added that he did not know of the group's plans.

As early as two months ago, anti-Arroyo forces raised the idea of organizing a people's court to try the President for alleged election fraud.

Palace officials lambasted the idea, saying it would be a "kangaroo court" no different from that created by the Japanese during their occupation of the Philippines. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Good news . . .

From page A1

nary Filipinos and ordinary entrepreneurs," she said in a speech at the opening ceremonies of the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference at the Manila Polo Club in Makati.

"This may need amending the objectives of my EO (executive order) on government reengineering and the issuance of an enabling executive order that will allow front-line agencies to operate in an emergency or state of calamity mode."

The President did not specify the front-line agencies or the extent of their powers, only that it would help lessen the burdens of entrepreneurs in doing business in the country.

No room for bad news

"There is good news for Christmas and an entrepreneur must look at the good news and not be bogged down by the bad news," she said.

She said that as the public prepared for the coming holidays, the Filipinos' spirit should be "buoyed" by news that the World Bank had rated the Philippines as the second biggest supplier of skilled labor; that the influx of money from overseas Filipino workers—expected to hit $10 billion this year—had been lifting many families out of poverty, and that Philippine National Oil Co.'s oil concessions in Gambia and Equatorial Guinea could be "the glimmer of light at the end of our oil difficulties."

The meaning of risk

Ms Arroyo gave the upbeat outlook just a day after complaining that some newspapers and broadcast stations had been unduly focusing on the bad news, mostly political in nature, while relegating to the back pages her administration's accomplishments, specifically in the economic field.

Ms Arroyo said that, just like an entrepreneur, she also knew the meaning of risk.

"I know what it takes to take a risk and in my case, I have the risk of losing my political capital just to do what is right for our future generations," she said, exhorting her audience to invest in the Philippines.

Spiritual road

In keeping with her feel-good mode, Ms Arroyo said that she would take the spiritual road in reconciling with her foes before Christmas.

"As we look upon renewal, let's begin by reconciling the nation with God. For Catholics, I would advocate a nationwide program whereby all will undertake the sacrament of penance and reconciliation," she said.

"For Muslims, I ask them to offer this annual fast for reconciliation with God. For other denominations, I hope they will begin a similar program in their churches."

Massive cleanup

Ms Arroyo said she planned to reorganize the Presidential Commission on Effective Governance, originally established to streamline the bloated Office of the President.

She said that the deputy national security adviser, Virtus Gil, would spearhead that study.

Aside from putting front-line agencies on emergency mode, the President said she would also embark on a massive cleanup of all municipalities and provincial capitols, rebrand the metropolis from Metro Manila to simply Manila, and decongest it.

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Hacienda Luisita union president shot to death

By Tonette T. Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE LEADER OF STRIKING WORKERS AT the Hacienda Luisita sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino was shot dead last night in his house in Tarlac City.

Reports gathered by INQUIRER the from the police and from fellow workers said that Ricardo Ramos, 45, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), was in a drinking session with other union officials in his backyard in Barangay Mapalacsiao when a lone gunman approached from behind and shot him.

The assassin escaped after the 9:30 p.m. attack.

Ramos' group was celebrating the resolution of the 11-month labor dispute at the estate.

Ramos was killed after the Catlu received at least P8 million in a settlement for back wages on Tuesday afternoon.

As Catlu chair, Ramos had taken a hard stance against cooperating with the corporation largely owned by the Cojuangco family.

An engineer, Ramos was also the barangay captain of Mapalacsiao.

The suspect was not immediately identified, according to Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police director.

Ramos was the third militant leader killed in Tarlac this month after Rolando Mariano, former chair of the Tarlac Electric Cooperative, and Florante Collantes, chair of the party-list group Bayan Muna provincial chapter.

Mapalacsiao is one of the 10 barangays in the sugar estate.

Ramos had opposed the planned installation of a military detachment in the barangay.

He had been keeping a low profile since receiving threats after the labor dispute involving the estate resulted in the violent dispersal of hacienda workers last year. *With Blanche Rivera*

Bird flu info drive…

From page A1

have thriving poultry populations.

"The key is to inform people on what to do while the country is still free from bird flu," Villa told reporters yesterday.

Avoid touching birds

She said people should avoid getting near or, worse, touching birds believed to be suffering from avian influenza.

Droplets of the deadly H5N1 strain can be transmitted to humans when birds flap their wings or when poultry handlers de-feather them, she said.

"The risk is higher when you handle live birds," Villa said.

Any person exposed to an infected fowl should be quarantined for at least seven days, considering that the incubation period for bird flu is only two to three days, she said.

Local health experts are wary that the disease will soon hit the Philippines. Birds usually begin to migrate to the country in October to escape the winter in China and Mongolia.

The World Health Organization had earlier urged the international community to brace for a possible bird flu pandemic. It noted that the time was ripe for another global health catastrophe.

When that happens, there is a slim possibility that the existing drugs and vaccine against the regular human flu would work on the new strain.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, director of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, yesterday said that between five and 20 years are spent in developing a vaccine.

While the country remains free from bird flu, Bravo urged the public to aggressively maintain a healthy lifestyle. This is the first line of defense against any disease, she said.

"The healthier you are, the better your response is to diseases," Bravo said.

People afflicted with the flu could either show no effects or die depending on their responses to the virus, she said. *With a report from Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau, and AFP*

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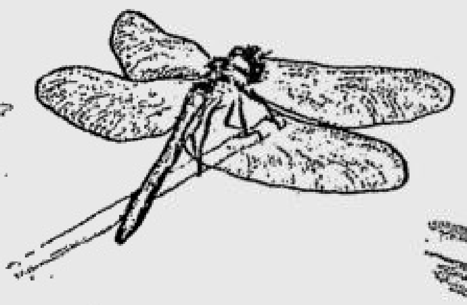

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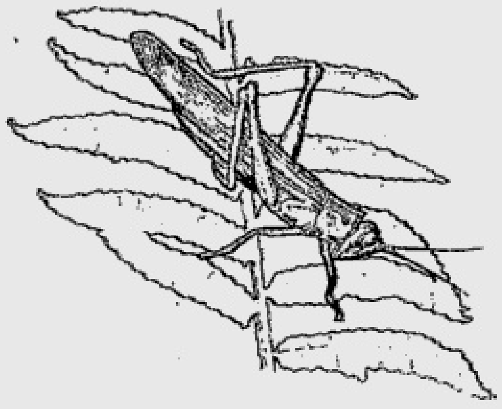

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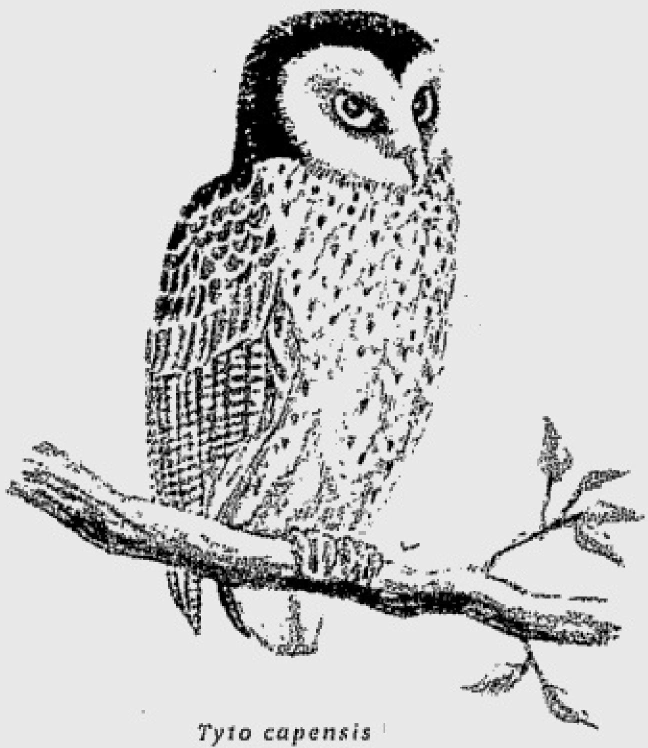

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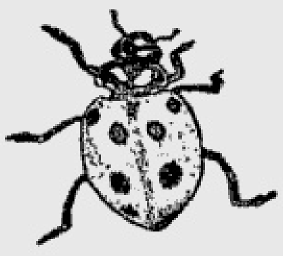

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Hurricane Wilma pummels Florida

MIAMI, FLORIDA—HURRICANE Wilma sped northward along the eastern US coast early Tuesday after cutting furiously across Florida, killing at least four people, leaving more than three million homes without power and churning huge waves that flooded Cuba's capital Havana.

The storm killed at least 10 people in its violent passage through Mexico's Yucatan peninsula over the weekend, where tens of thousands of American and European tourists were forced to flee resorts or hide in shelters.

In Florida, The Miami Herald said the storm killed at least four people: two men by falling trees, a woman by flying debris and another man by a collapsing roof.

In Cuba, four people, including three foreign tourists, died in a bus accident as they evacuated Friday before the storm slammed the island.

Wilma slashed across Florida as a category two storm in the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale before regaining strength just off the Atlantic coast, where it grew into a category three hurricane, with winds near 205 km per hour, said the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC).

"Some weakening is forecast during the next 24 hours," the center said at 0300 GMT, "but Wilma will likely remain a hurricane through much of the day Tuesday."

Wilma was about 430 km southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and hurricane warnings for the Bahamas were discontinued, the center said.

As Wilma sped ahead at 76 km per hour, it dumped less rain on Florida. It is not expected to directly affect the US east coast as it picks up speed and reaches Canadian waters by early Wednesday, the NHC said.

The storm left about 3.2 million homes without power in southeast Florida, affecting some six million people, according to Florida Power and Light. It will take weeks to restore power to all customers, the company said.

Gov. Jeb Bush had urged residents who missed the chance to flee to stay indoors.

"Just stay in your homes until the storm has passed," he said.

The acting chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, David Paulison, urged those who evacuated to wait until authorities give them the green light to go home.

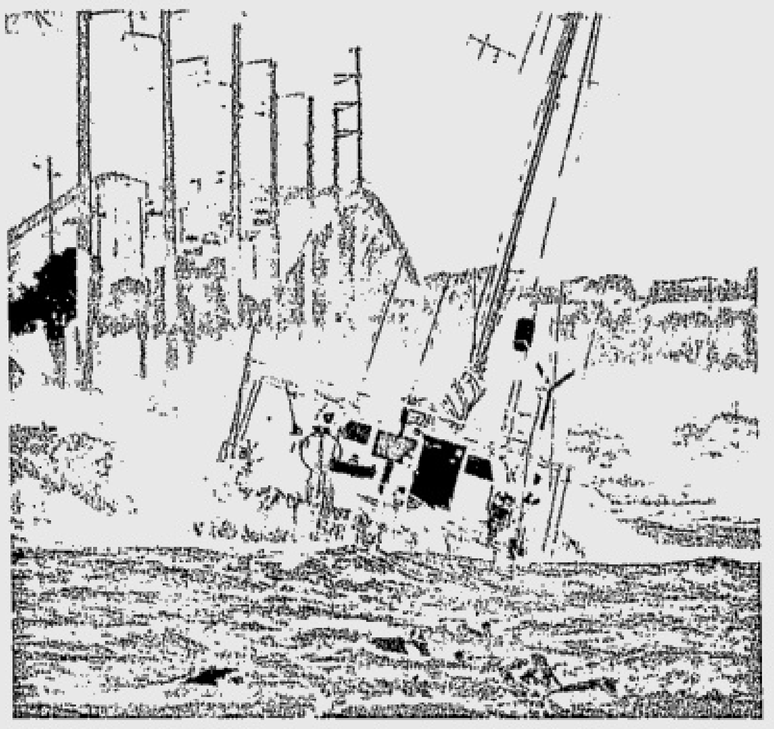
"Please, please don't go back until the local emergency managers tell you it's safe to go back," Paulison said in a news conference.

But many had ignored the evacuation calls in the southwest city of Naples and in the Florida Keys island chain south of Florida.

Jeb Bush's brother, President George W. Bush, declared a major disaster in Florida, releasing federal funds to supplement state and local recovery efforts, and that emergency aid was ready to be deployed.

"We have prepositioned food, medicine, communications equipment, urban search and rescue teams," Bush said.

Bush was keen to show the government was well prepared for the disaster after his administration was heavily criticized for its slow response to Hurricane Katrina, which claimed more than 1,200 lives after striking the southern US coast on Aug. 29. *AFP*



A BOAT that broke from its moorings in the Banana River is shown near the Mathers Bridge in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla., in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma Oct. 24. AP

THIS undated file photo shows Rosa Parks riding on the Montgomery Area Transit System bus. Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man sparked the modern civil rights movement. AP

US civil rights icon Rosa Parks dead at 92

WASHINGTON—AFRICAN-AMERican civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955 sparked a movement to end legally imposed racial segregation in the United States, has died, local media reported.

She was 92. She died at her home in Detroit, Michigan, according to The Detroit News.

Parks' health had been declining since the late 1990s. By then, she had stopped giving interviews and rarely appeared in public.

In 1995, she said, "I'd like people to say I'm a person who always wanted to be free and wanted it not only for myself; freedom is for all human beings."

Parks refused to give up her seat in the front of a bus when a white man requested it, as she was required to do in the southern United States 1955.

Her arrest so angered African Americans that they boycotted the Montgomery, Alabama, buses for a year.

Parks' act was ahead of the civil rights movement and had little reason to believe that the 50,000 African Americans in Montgomery would follow her lead and that her protest would result in little more than an arrest for her.

A young minister named Martin Luther King led the boycott as well as a nonviolent movement that would change local, state and federal legislation in favor of black Americans.

Rep. John Lewis of Georgia told CNN: "By sitting down, she was really standing up for all Americans." *AFP*

New bird flu outbreak hits China; threatens Asia anew

BEIJING—CHINA WAS STRUCK by another outbreak of bird flu and a fourth person died from the virus in Indonesia Tuesday amid warnings that the lethal disease could cost the Asia region up to $290 billion.

At the same time, Vietnam said it had contained its first outbreak this season, detected earlier this month in a flock of 600 ducks in southern Dong Thap province.

In China's Anhui province, 2,100 geese and chickens were infected with the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus that has killed at least 60 people in Asia since late 2003, two-thirds of them in Vietnam.

The outbreak, the sixth in China this year, was detected on Oct. 20 in Liangying village and so far 550 birds have died, according to a Ministry of Agriculture report to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Another 44,736 birds have been culled, as China strengthened monitoring around the country, winning praise from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

"They report the outbreaks swiftly and the cooperation is very smooth, especially in information sharing," FAO China representative Noureddin Mona told AFP.

In Indonesia, a fourth person died from the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the health ministry announced.

"We now have seven cases of bird flu, including four fatalities," health ministry official Renuizar Rusin said.

Another ministry official Hariyadi Wibisono said the casualty was a 23-year-old man who died on Sept. 30 in Bogor, south of Jakarta. Test results received Monday confirmed he had bird flu.

WHO Indonesia director Georg Petersen said the victim had a history of contact with birds.

"As far as we know this H5N1 is circulating in birds in Indonesia. As long as that happens we expect there will be occasional infections in humans. It doesn't mean the situation has changed," Petersen told AFP.

Scientists fear the current H5N1 strain may mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious as well as lethal—possibly killing millions worldwide.

Health ministers and experts from 30 countries are meeting in Canada's capital Ottawa to forge a coordinated international effort against the virus, aiming to advance global preparations for a flu pandemic.

Several countries have already announced plans to build stocks of antiviral drugs and vaccines to combat the threat. Governments also have destroyed some 140 million birds wherever the virus has been found.

"All of these measures are good, but they are only the second line of defense," FAO head Jacques Diouf told AFP. "The real battleground is on the animal front."

The Asian Development Bank warned Tuesday that a severe outbreak of avian influenza could cost the Asia-Pacific region alone between $250 billion and $290 billion.

According to its preliminary estimates, the Manila-based bank believes that even a relatively mild pandemic could cost the region around $90-110 billion due to the effects of reduced consumption, investment and trade.

The bank said the various stages of a growing human pandemic would have widespread and serious implications for economic development and the welfare of people in the region and beyond, with health systems overwhelmed.

After its emergence in Asia in 2003, the H5N1 strain finally jumped to Europe this month with outbreaks reported in Turkey, Romania and Russia's south Urals region of Chelyabinsk. *AFP*

More bird flu cases in Russia confirmed

MOSCOW—RUSSIA CONfirmed more bird flu cases on Monday, raising fears it could spread over Europe, but a UN official said the best way to stop it was for donors to pay up and fight it where it began, among Asian fowl.

The latest case in Russia killed 12 hens at a private dacha in Tambov, 400 km southeast of Moscow, last week.

Authorities culled 53 ducks and hens and imposed a quarantine.

Tests confirmed it was the H5N1 avian flu strain which can infect humans, though not yet pass between them, officials said.

The European Union was poised to ban all imports of captive wild birds after a parrot died of H5N1 in quarantine in Britain.

More dead birds were found and taken for tests in Germany, Croatia, Hungary and Portugal as suspect cases multiplied.

But the numbers involved in Europe are still small and no humans there have been infected, unlike Asia where 61 people died after close contact with infected birds.

A World Health Organization official from Asia said Europe still had good prospects of stopping H5N1 reaching its tame bird population because it had reacted faster and more openly.

"There is an excellent chance for Europe to contain the Asian flu," said Shigeru Omi.

The UN food agency's head said the world must focus on Asia, and on stopping the virus passing between birds, as the best way to prevent the nightmare scenario of it mixing with a human strain to cause pandemic deadly flu.

"Too much time has gone by and even now we seem to focus more on addressing a possible pandemic which is spread from human to human," said Jacques Diouf, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). *Reuters*

WHO head calls for united front vs bird flu

OTTAWA—THE HEAD OF THE WORLD Health Organization told a gathering of health ministers and experts from 30 countries Monday that they must help poorer countries to stem a possible flu pandemic.

"We must find ways of helping developing countries," Lee Jong-wook, director general of the World Health Organization, told delegates in Ottawa. "Each country should have access to anti-viral medication, whether procured independently or provided through international collaboration in a stockpile."

Mexico and Thailand had proposed wealthy countries share 5 to 10 percent of their flu vaccine stockpiles with developing countries, a plan "wholeheartedly endorsed" by Canada. But Lee said the amount was insufficient.

The world will need to produce billions of doses of a safe vaccine when the time comes to fight a pandemic, he said.

Canadian Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh offered support for a plan to loosen drug patent laws to allow generic production of anti-viral drugs and vaccines in some countries.

"We actually need to assist them with technology transfers which I believe is a euphemism for loosening the patent laws," Dosanjh said.

But, Lee noted: "It's not easy to break the patent."

Existing supplies of Tamiflu, an anti-viral drug effective against influenza, are inadequate and seasonal flu vaccine producers can only make enough for current demand, which is "a fraction" of what would be needed in a pandemic, Lee said.

"But, it is not the case that if we can break the patent we can produce the medicine in big quantities. The cooperation of (Tamiflu-maker) Roche is very important," he said, hopeful the company would share its license.

"When there is a real need for Tamiflu, the basic instinct will be: 'This is for our people' and it is a very unnatural act to share precious small quantities of medicine with others," he said.

"But, clearly it makes a lot of sense to try to put out the fire there rather than to wait for it to reach you."

The two-day international conference in Canada's capital aims to forge a coordinated international effort against the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus and advance global preparations for a flu pandemic, officials said.

It is the first to bring together both health ministers and experts from around the world, including Britain, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa and the United States, as well as representatives from the WHO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health, to discuss avian influenza.

"The WHO has sent guidance to each country on what to do, but so far, only 40 countries are ready with a plan," Lee said. "Every government must be able to respond rapidly and effectively when the time comes."

The WHO head also called for improved disease surveillance in animals and humans with early warning systems in all affected and at-risk countries that include field investigations, diagnostic support, and incentives for people to report cases.

"All countries need to be able to detect, investigate, and report cases without delay. That information has to be quickly produced and shared freely among the international community," Lee said.

More investment is also needed in research and development of vaccines and anti-viral drugs, he said.

"The best protection of all is an effective vaccine. But this can only be made once the pandemic virus has emerged. We currently do not have a vaccine that we know will be fully effective," Lee said. *AFP*

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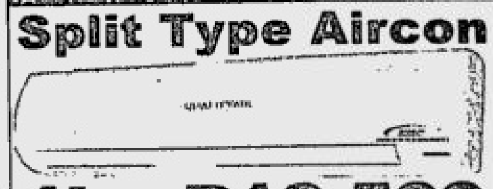

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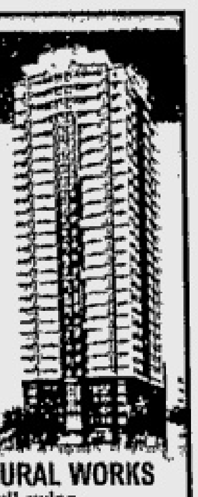

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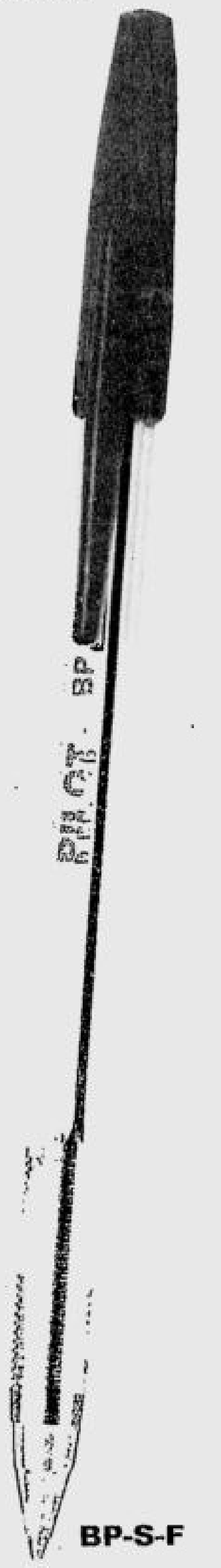

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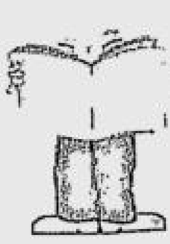

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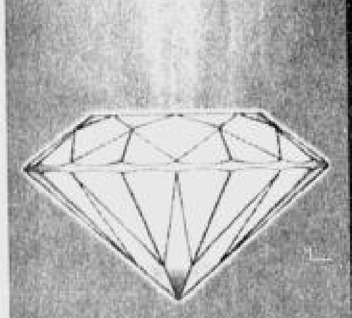

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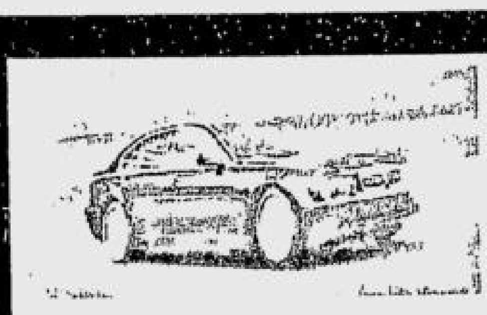

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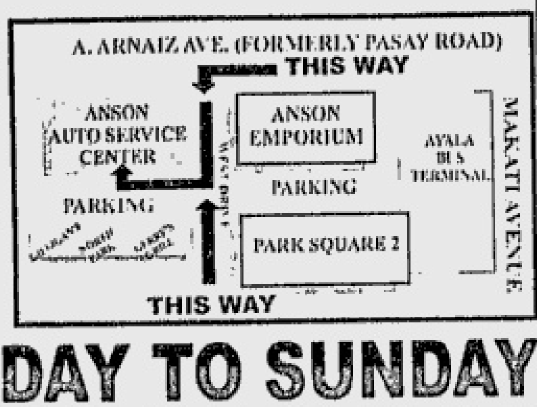

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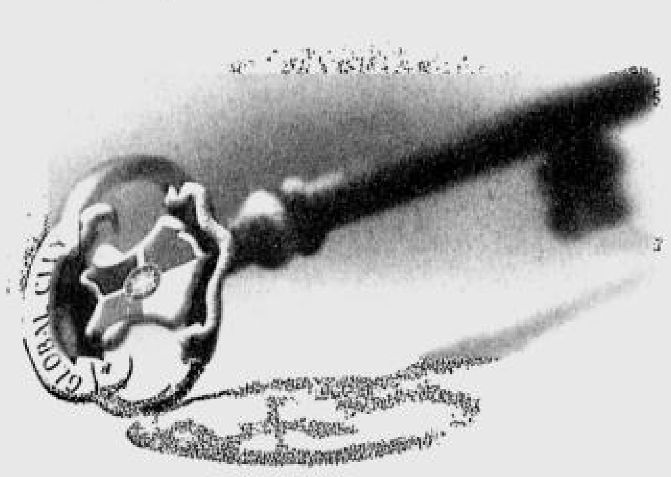

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Probers search for cause of Nigerian plane crash

LISSA, NIGERIA—NIGERIA SAID Monday it had requested expert help from the United States to determine what brought down a passenger jet, whose crash carved a deep pit into the earth and killed all 117 aboard.

Aviation Minister Babalola Borishade told reporters at the crash site his country had made a formal request to the United States for aviation investigators and forensic experts. He did not completely rule out the possibility of foul play, but said, "For now, we just believe it's an accident."

US Embassy officials had no immediate comment.

Earlier, Fidelis Onyenyiri, chief of the National Civil Aviation Authority, had said a "natural cause" was likely.

"The weather was not too bad but there was lightning, and an airplane struck by lightning could lose total control," Onyenyiri said. "There were signs of disintegration which could be caused by impact or other means. Our preliminary position is that the airplane seems to have lost control and went down.

Lightning has rarely been confirmed as the cause of a crash.

The Bellview Airlines Boeing 737-200 had been on the way from Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, to its capital, Abuja, when it crashed late Saturday near Lissa, about 50 km north of the Lagos airport.

One area resident, Lanre Ayeni, said he believed the plane may have exploded before falling to the ground. His account couldn't be verified.

"We heard a loud bang in the sky and then saw a large ball of fire fall down, followed by a massive explosion and more fire," said the 30-year-old carpenter.

Most Lissa residents were fearful and only approached the crash site hours later, after dawn, he said.

Ayeni said they found a scene of smoldering devastation, with aircraft parts and clothes hanging in trees and no sign of life.

Acrid smoke still curled from an eight-yard deep pit Monday as investigators picked through nearby wreckage, looking for flight-data recorders—the so-called black boxes, which are actually often blazing orange for easier identification.

Small bits of fuselage, human flesh and clothing were strewn in a nearby copse of trees. A hand and leg lay on the ground. No identifiable bodies could be seen but the smell of death hung close.

Ogo Odingbe wailed and searched the site Monday for signs of her brother, who was aboard the flight.

"I can't even find his clothes or anything to identify him. How can he go without a trace?" cried the 28-year-old.

Nigeria announced a three-day, nationwide mourning period for victims.

Nigeria's Broadcasting Commission lifted the temporary closure of two broadcasters for what it termed "gross unprofessional conduct" in airing grisly crash-site footage and reporting that no one survived the crash before authorities had made a full assessment of the situation or notified victims' families.

After protests by Nigerians, the agency said it was treating the matter with "some measure of magnanimity" in only issuing a warning that any other such breaches will be sanctioned.

There was much official confusion on Sunday, with regional and local officials giving erroneous reports on whether there were survivors—or even where the crash had occurred. Federal officials gave little information until late in the day.

Military helicopters first spotted the smoldering wreckage of the Nigerian-run Bellview jet on Sunday, and search teams that visited the site afterward found no survivors, said Onyenyiri, chief of the National Civil Aviation Authority.

Initial reports indicated the plane lost contact with the Lagos control tower five minutes after taking off from Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos at 8:45 p.m. (1945 GMT) on Saturday and state radio said pilots issued a distress call before the plane disappeared from radar.

The 50-minute flight to Abuja was a popular route among Nigerians and expatriates.

The nationalities of those aboard were not immediately known, but most were believed to be Nigerians. Airline officials said 117 people were on board—111 passengers and six crew members. *AP*

'SPAIN IN HONG KONG' FESTIVAL

Dancers perform the flamenco in front of a replica of the "Nao Victoria," the first S Victoria Harbor as a part of "Spain in Hong Kong" festival, in Hong Kong Oct. 25. T the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas. It starte visited Shanghai before Hong Kong. The next stop will be Singapore.

At least 17 killed in attacks on Baghdad hotels

BAGHDAD—AT LEAST 17 PEOPLE were killed Monday when triple car bomb blasts slammed heavily protected hotels used by foreigners in the center of the Iraqi capital.

The attack at sundown came amid mounting tension over the delayed outcome to Iraq's constitutional vote.

The blasts rocked Firdus Square, where the statue of ousted president Saddam Hussein was pulled down when US troops marched into Baghdad in April 2003, and shook the Palestine, Sheraton and Sadir hotels.

A shock wave that followed the flashes was felt across central Baghdad and a white mushroom cloud then slowly billowed up from the buildings, followed by two more, the third a thick column mixed with grey and black.

A senior security source said 17 people were killed and nine wounded. "The victims are either security guards, hotel employees or passers-by," the source said, without saying if any foreigners were among them.

The US military reported no coalition casualties.

Video images showed a cement truck breaching the security perimeter for the Palestine and Sheraton hotels just as an explosion occurred on the opposite side of the square.

The truck came to a halt and a massive blast followed.

"If the cement truck driven by a suicide bomber had not been stopped in time by the guards who opened fire, it would have totally devastated the Sheraton," another security source said.

According to a US military account of the attack: "The first car bomb caused a breach in an outer barrier wall of the Palestine and Sheraton hotels.

"About five minutes later a second car bomb approached the square and tried to maneuver through the breach but was engaged (fired upon) by civilian security forces and detonated" near a mosque.

"Thirty seconds later, a Task Force Baghdad soldier engaged a cement truck that was moving through the breached wall. The truck exploded near a coalition vehicle causing moderate damage," it said.

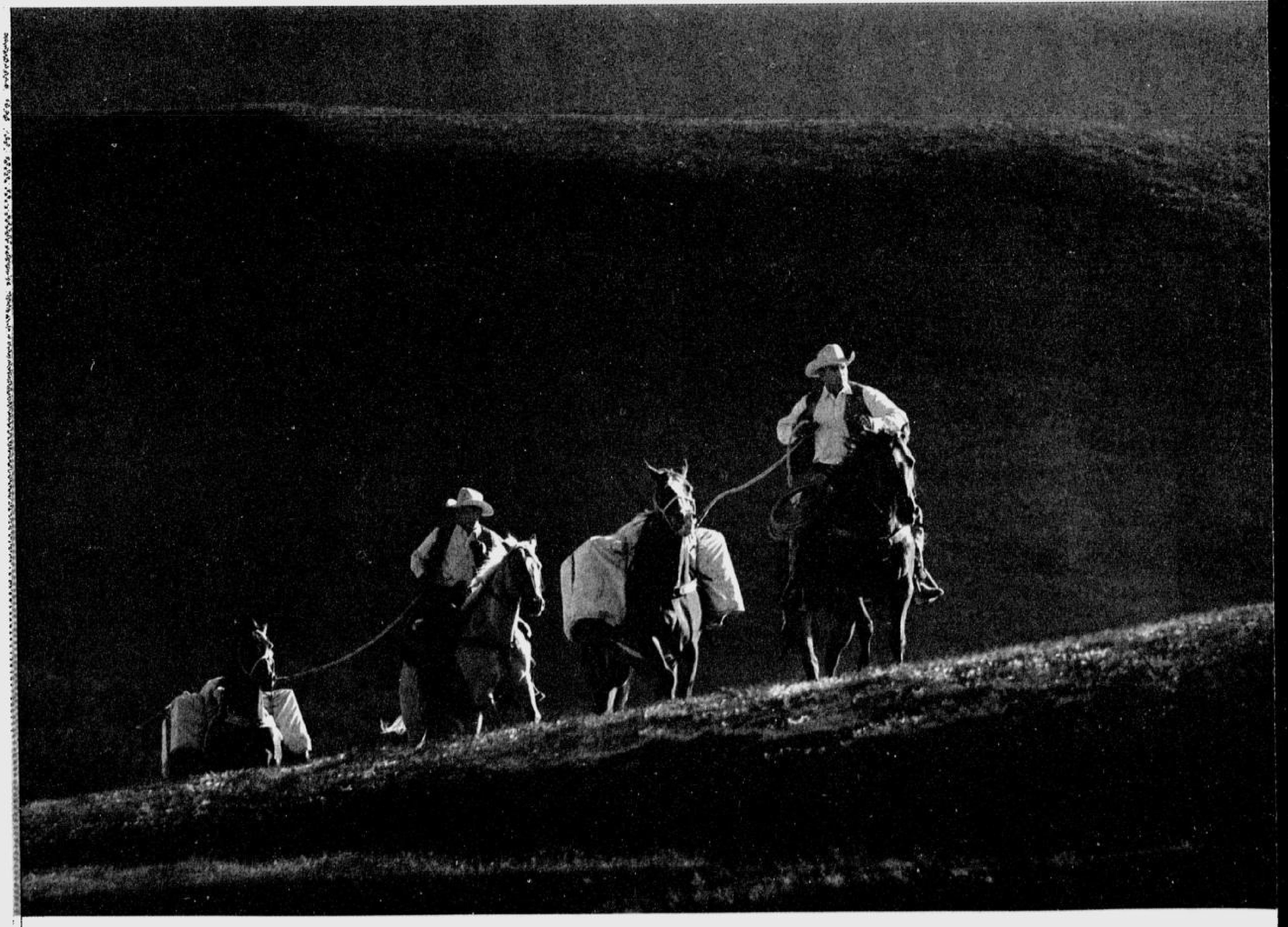
Targeting two hotels where security contractors and many of the world's media have their base, the blasts appeared aimed at grabbing global attention. *AFP*

Time running ou earthquake surv

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN— MORE HELP arrived in quake-hit Pakistan on Monday as the United Nations warned that time is running out for survivors of the worst catastrophe in the country's history.

EU humanitarian aid commissioner Louis Michel said a "second humanitarian disaster looms" for millions of destitute survivors and more than 70,000 injured unless help arrives before winter.

"We are facing an enormous humanitarian catastrophe," he said after the European



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ut for Pakistan ivors, says UN

Commission proposed an aid package worth 80 million euros ($95 million), 13.6 million euros more than it has already released.

"With winter just around the corner, a second humanitarian disaster looms for the four million people without a roof over their heads and the 70,000 injured people needing medical attention."

Three heavy-lift helicopters from Britain and five tons of medicine from Afghanistan reached the capital Islamabad but experts said much more was needed before winter snows hit the mountainous disaster zone in three weeks. *AFP*

N. Korea to attend November nuclear talks

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA WILL attend the November round of six-party talks on its nuclear program, a government official said Monday, offering hope of further progress in the long-running dispute.

A foreign ministry spokesperson reiterated North Korea's commitment to ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons and said it would attend the talks at a date to be agreed.

"It is our consistent and invariable stand to realize the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through dialogue," the unnamed spokesperson said, as quoted by the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"We will, therefore, go to the fifth six-party talks at the date to be agreed upon early in November as the six parties had committed themselves to do so."

A South Korean official said earlier that the fifth round of talks, involving the two Koreas, China, the United States, Japan and Russia, will take place in the second week of November.

"The fifth round of six-party talks, which will be held in early November, probably in the second week, will focus on how to implement the joint statement," South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said.

At the last round in Beijing in September, North Korea agreed to a statement of principles under which it would give up its nuclear weapons in return for energy and security guarantees. *AFP*

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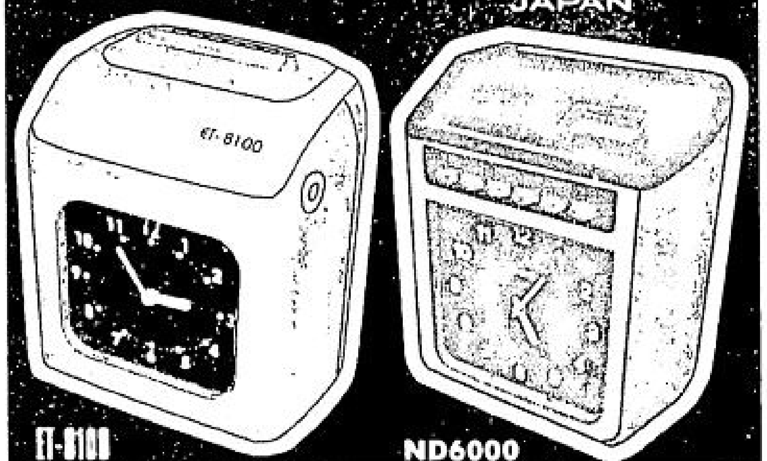

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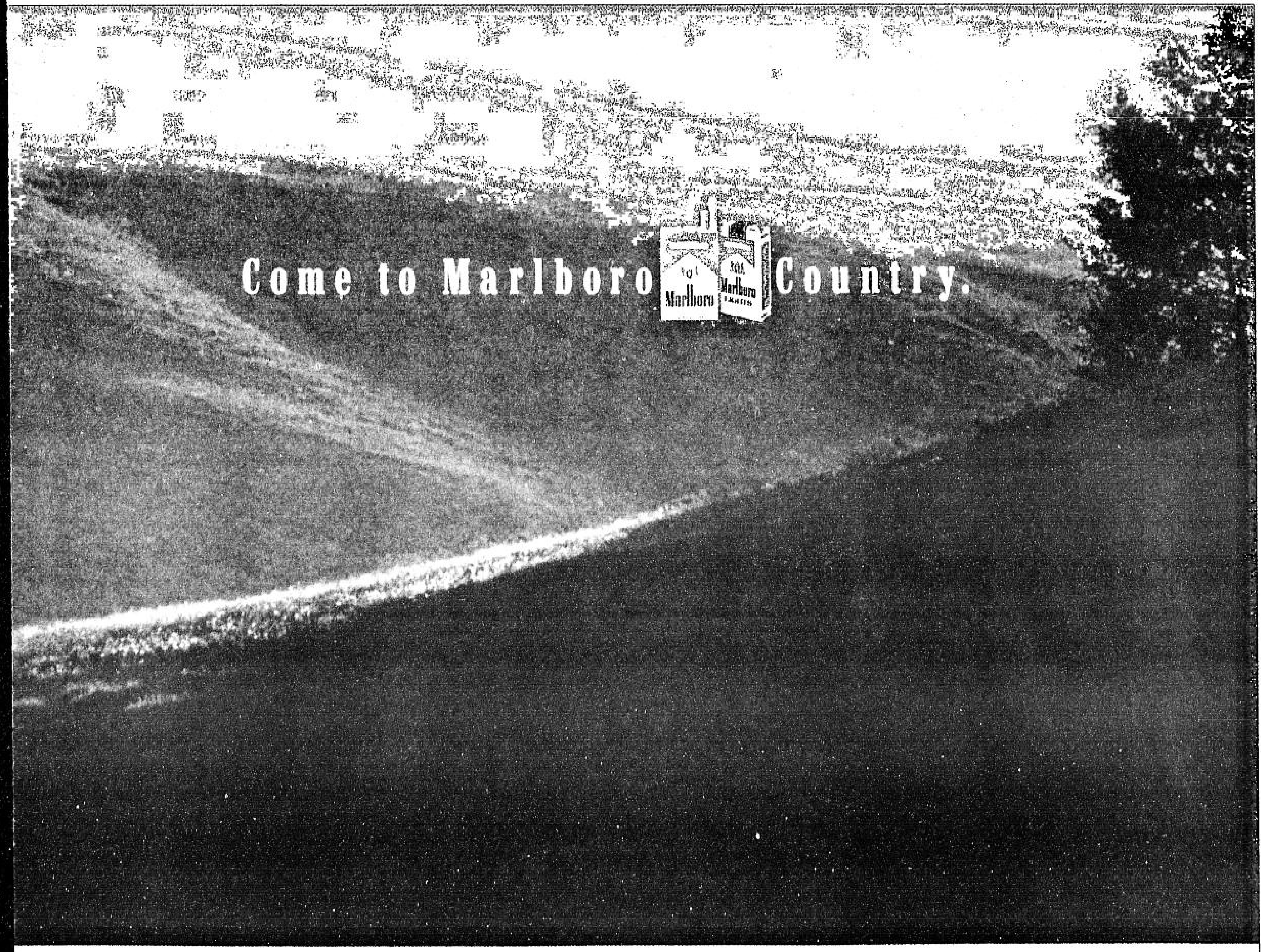

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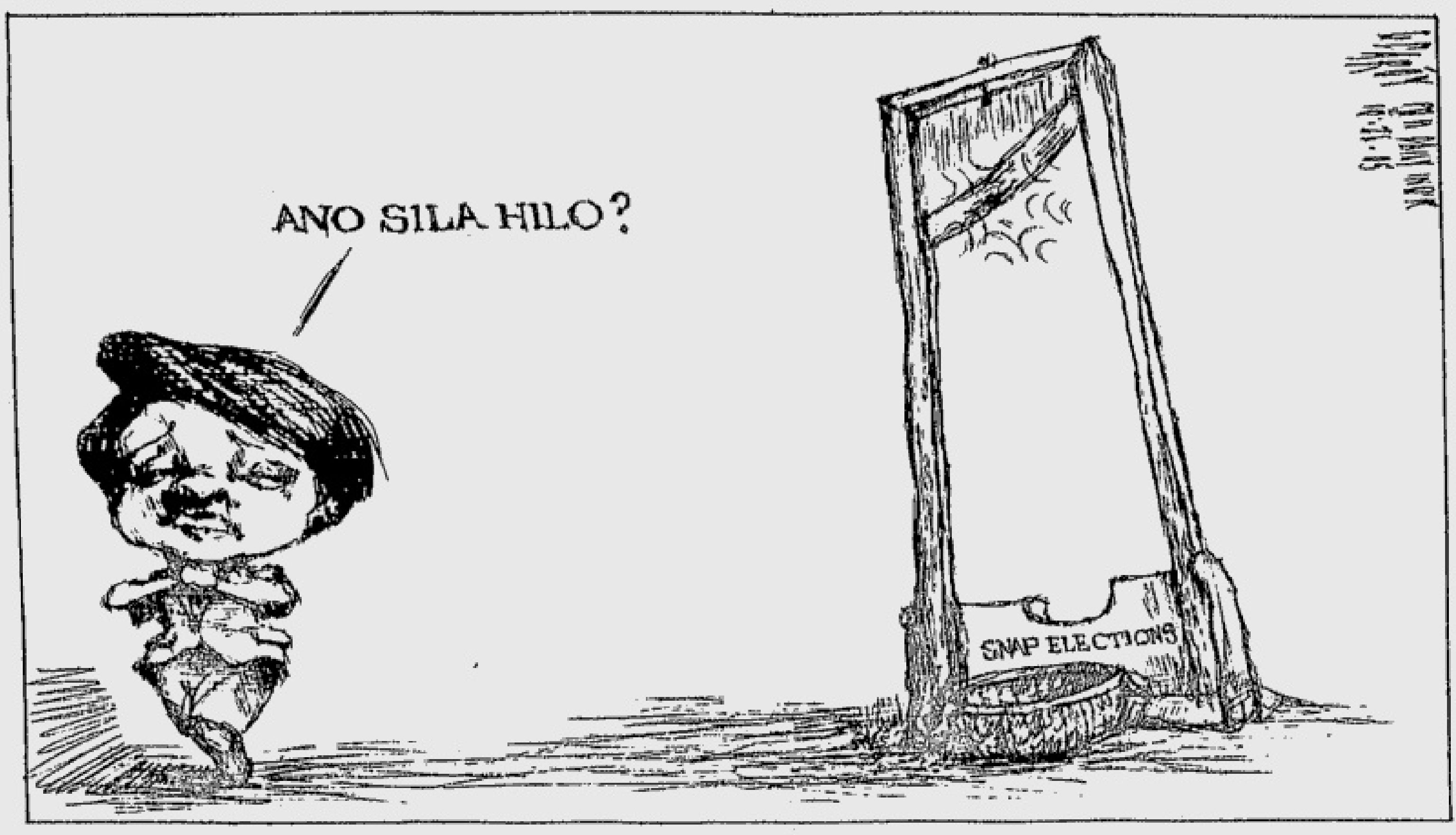

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What's up?

EDITORIAL

AFTER SURVIVING WHAT HER ALLIES CALLED A "creeping impeachment," President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be facing a quickening erosion of her base of support. While local government officials appear to be steadfast in their endorsement of her leadership and her allies in the House of Representatives remain largely undiminished, the same cannot be said of her other supporters. In the last few days, some political and religious leaders who were firmly on her side during last year's elections have been speaking somewhat ominously about the need for the nation's leaders to make some "sacrifices."

Last Friday, Executive Minister Eraño Manalo of the Iglesia ni Cristo and Brother Mike Velarde of El Shaddai took the unprecedented step of issuing a joint statement appealing to both administration and opposition leaders "to bring to an end the political bickerings that have been going on for months and hurting our nation." They urged the political leaders to "set aside their personal interests and attend to their duty to alleviate the sufferings of the Filipino people." They also pointed out that the issues raised by both sides could be resolved "if only they will offer to sacrifice a portion of what they believe are theirs to hold on to."

The rather reclusive Manalo has yet to spell out in clear terms his call for sacrifice. But the flamboyant Velarde has left very little doubt about what he wants Ms Arroyo to do, which is to relinquish power, either completely or partially. Velarde's most moderate proposal would see the President giving 60 percent of Cabinet positions to the opposition. His extreme position calls for the holding of a snap presidential election in 2007. Alternatively, he suggests a referendum on her presidency, with her pledging to abide by its results. While Velarde gives Ms Arroyo several options, none of them seeks to preserve the status quo. Velarde is asking her to give up most of her powers, at the very least, or even the presidency itself—hardly the call of a true believer in her leadership or even someone who harbors any hope that she can still turn things around.

Velarde and Manalo are not the only ones among her allies to advise her, indirectly and diplomatically, that she shouldn't serve out her six-year term. Former President Fidel V. Ramos has recently renewed his call for Ms Arroyo to make a "graceful exit" through a revision of the Constitution that would change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary by 2007 at the latest. That means Ms Arroyo would have to cut her term to three years instead of six. Ramos told the Makati Business Club last week that the President should subordinate her personal interest to the national interest. Like the two religious leaders, he said Ms Arroyo should make the sacrifice of "giving up a part of your elected term of office." He went on to say that if he was supportive of Ms Arroyo, it was only because he could see no better alternative.

Except for that back-handed compliment, there was nothing really new in Ramos' statement. He first aired this proposal in July, when he rushed to the aid of the President as she was being besieged by demands for her resignation by former President Corazon Aquino, Senate President Franklin Drilon and 10 former top administration officials. What is most intriguing is why Ramos is reiterating his call at this particular time. And for that matter, why Velarde is suddenly floating so many different proposals that have the same effect of shortening the President's term and trying to enlist the support of other religious leaders, like Manalo and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, as well as business leaders behind his efforts.

What is driving them to make these almost frenzied attempts to hammer out a political compromise that would break the stalemate between the administration and the political opposition? Does everything spring from a genuine concern over the sad and deteriorating economic lot of most Filipinos? Or do they sense something more sinister looming in the horizon, like a resurgence of military adventurism?

Hey guys, what about the people?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHILE IT IS FULL STOP ON IMPEACHMENT and the brakes have been applied on snap elections, it's full speed ahead for Charter change and a parliamentary-federal form of government for the 40-member Consultative Commission illegally created by Ate Glue. In fact, the Abueva railroad is running too fast it is bound to derail once it comes to a curve. A few days ago, the commission, by a vote of 32-7, decided to recommend to the President and Congress a parliamentary-federal system of government. Then it's going to go out and "consult," *kuno*, the people. This is like the train leaving the station but without its most important passenger, the people. Or like putting the coaches before the locomotive.

In an earlier column, I asked: Shouldn't the commission first ask the people if they want to change the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary system of government? But the commission decided to do it the opposite way: Draft the Charter first and then present it to the people for their acceptance. That's not "consultation"; that's ramming down the throat of the people a Charter the commission members had already in mind even before they were appointed to that body.

Indeed, except for a very few independent-minded souls, that body is so packed with *sip-sips*, notorious for their love for Charter change and parliamentary government that whatever discussions they have would be a farce. And that's what happened: All the objections were voted down by the body's predominantly pro-GMA (and GMA-appointed) members.

"Are we here to consult or to convince the people about a predetermined position?" asked member James Marty Lim, national president of the League of Barangays.

Journalist Jarius Bondoc said the commission would appear to be out to advocate rather than to find out if the people supported specific Charter changes.

"This is a very flawed procedure (when we decide) even before we can consult the people. The better process would be to consult the people first then come up with a decision," said Jose Villanueva.

"The ConCom would be seen as an approve-now-consult-later body," said Andres Bautista.

"We are no more than a rubber-stamp commission," Lim said, with former UP president Jose Abueva, chair of the commission, as the biggest stamp of them all. Abueva is riding on the prestige of the UP presidency, but he is doing the state university a disservice.

He should not have accepted the chairmanship of, or even just membership in, the commission, for he has been a loud advocate of a parliamentary-federal system of government. He went to the commission not with an open mind but with a predetermined objective. In fact, he has written a book on a parliamentary-federal system of government paid for by the Federal Republic of Germany. Abueva, therefore, is trying to sell us not an original Filipino idea but one that is German, and history tells us (and here I beg the forgiveness of the present-day Germans) that Germany was the home of Hitler's fascist policies that allowed mass murder. (Not that we need anybody to teach us; we are already on the way to becoming a fascist country under the guidance of Ate Glue.)

And so if we swallow the Charter to be rammed down our throats by Abueva et al., we may end up a fascist nation. Members of the commission may soon arrive at your town and call a meeting not to ask you if you favor changing the Constitution but to seduce you into accepting the Charter they have drafted. They will enumerate the evils of the present Constitution and paint a rosy picture of the government and society under the new Charter. Then they will announce, "Those who are hungry, raise your hands. We will distribute snacks." When you raise your hands, they will say, "Carried" or "Approved," and then report that the people "approved overwhelmingly" the new Charter presented in the consultations.

Actually, the people have already made known their view on Cha-cha and on the shift to a parliamentary government. In two opinion surveys conducted by two reputable pollsters (which are far more credible and accurate than what the commission can ever do), 80 percent of Filipinos said they don't want a Charter change, and a similar percentage said they don't want a parliamentary system.

But because Ate Glue was dead set on a new Constitution (knowing fully well that she cannot possibly last until 2010 and it is the only graceful exit for her), she went on to create illegally the Consultative Commission, appointing known pro-GMA and pro-Cha-cha characters as members. The Constitution does not authorize the President to create any group to draft a new Charter. The President is not supposed to have any involvement in the writing of a new Constitution for obvious reasons. That job is limited exclusively to a Constitutional Convention or to Congress sitting as a Constituent Assembly. President Aquino was able to create a Constitutional Commission that wrote the 1987 Constitution because hers was a revolutionary government. There was no Constitution to guide or limit her actions.

Ate Glue not only created the Commission without authority; she gave it a specific task: to recommend Charter amendments, "principally to a shift to the parliamentary-federal system."

And in the rush to achieve this objective, everybody has forgotten the most important part of the mix—the people, they who finally decide what Constitution and government they want.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Sen. Lito Lapid returned a book to the Senate library. "*Walang kwenta ito,*" he complained, "*puro tao, walang istorya.*" (This is no good; all characters, no story.)

The librarian replied: "*So kayo pala ang naguwi ng aming telephone directory.*" (So, you were the one who took home our telephone directory.)

Problem-solving

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT FINALLY PEOPLE are thinking of elections to solve the problem of an unelected president. The bad news is how they want it to happen.

Snap elections were proposed recently by two religious leaders, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, and endorsed by the Hyatt 10. The steps to be taken include: GMA sets up a multi-partisan Cabinet (Velarde wants a 40-60 sharing of Cabinet posts with the 60 going to the opposition), Congress lifts term limits and sets snap polls for 2007, the Comelec is cleaned up, Noli de Castro takes over the reins of government, then after elections, Charter change. "The objective," says Velarde, "is to unite everybody and establish a formula for principled cooperation."

Well, the only intelligent thing in that proposal is that Charter change is thrown in the back burner. Which is as it should be. Fidel Ramos' notion that the answer to GMA changing the results of the last elections is for the country to change the shape of its government is about as sane as that nuisance candidate's notion that the answer to this country's poverty is to give each Filipino P1 million. My apologies to the nuisance candidate whose proposal makes a lot more sense and who is far less of a nuisance than Ramos.

But to go back to the proposal of the two V's. What's wrong with it is everything.

First off, it has an insane premise, which is that GMA will actually go along with this call for a multi-partisan Cabinet, give the opposition the majority of posts, leave the reins of government to Noli, and unite with everybody to build a better nation. Where have you people been all this time? Remember the murder of the impeachment bid? Remember the ban on anti-GMA rallies? Remember the ban on government officials, civilian and military, from giving testimony in the Senate? Remember the water-cannoning of the marchers a couple of weeks ago? Remember the threat of emergency rule? Are these the actions of someone who would willingly relinquish power?

It also presumes that the same entity that killed the impeachment bid, which is Congress, will go along with this. When the congressmen have amply shown that the only people capable of convincing them to do anything are dead ones: Jose Rizal, Apolinario Mabini, Manuel Roxas, and most especially Ninoy Aquino. Go figure.

I have a better suggestion, which is that instead of making proposals like this to the businessmen, they make proposals to their fellow Church leaders to unite to call for the accursed one to depart. That should add a dimension of faith to driving out a faithless president. GMA will never give up power: not today, not in 2007, not even in 2010. The only way to make her do so is to force her to do so. Lending the entire weight of the Church to that effort should help do so.

Second off, it says nothing about why GMA should depart. I go back to what I said about the statements of Cory and the Hyatt 10 last July calling on GMA to resign, which is that it lacks the most vital element in any demand for a leader to depart, which is an act of wrongdoing. All Cory and the Hyatt 10 said was that the country was in the throes of divisiveness. Why should that be a reason to go? That should be a reason to stay, to end the divisiveness. In fact, the real reason GMA had to go, which Cory et al. could not voice out because it indicted them as well for their part in it, was that GMA had screwed the country by stealing the vote.

It's the same with the proposal of the two V's. Nothing is said about why GMA should go. In fact, the whole notion of including her in this charade presumes that she did nothing wrong, she should resign out of the goodness of her heart, to spare her countrymen from dying from the sight of her. But if she did nothing wrong, why should she leave? Romulo Macalintal, GMA's lawyer, is right to say in that case that there is nothing in the Constitution that authorizes cutting short the president's term. He forgets that there is also nothing in the Constitution that allows a president to call up a Comelec official in the middle of counting and ask him to cut down, or shave to the bone, her chief rival's votes. In fact, the Constitution forbids it by all that democracy holds sacred.

The basis for GMA's leaving cannot be gratuity, it can only be justice. I don't even know why we should ask her to resign: to do so is to suggest she is the president to begin with. She is not. She stole the vote. I have yet to hear of the PNP asking the squatters their permission to evict them. GMA is an illegal occupant of Malacañang. She is no more a part of the solution than the former squatter of Malacañang, Marcos, was, a lesson you would think Ramos would have learned by now. His antics today are enough to make you wish Paul Laxalt had told Marcos: "Cut, and cut—their throats—cleanly."

And finally, why 2007? I don't particularly care whether it is Noli de Castro, Franklin Drilon, a transitional group, revolutionary or otherwise, that holds the caretaker government after GMA is evicted. I do care that they hold it for the briefest possible time. The problem is that we do not have an elected president—that's what's brought this country to a standstill. The solution is to have an elected president—that's what will push this country forward. The sooner we hold elections, the better. The only thing that really needs to be done is to clean up the Comelec by replacing the innumerate commissioners there with people who know how to count. That can't take more than a few months.

First, evict the squatter in Malacnñang, then hold elections ASAP. Those are all the steps you need to take. All the rest is just clutter, like Ramos, being neither here nor there.

Russian realities

COMMENTARY

Richard N. Haass

AT FIRST GLANCE, RUSSIA BEARS MANY OF THE hallmarks of a great power. It possesses a large arsenal of nuclear weapons, a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, enormous reserves of oil and other minerals, a recent record of robust economic growth, and more territory than any other country despite being only three-fourths the size of the former Soviet Union.

Closer inspection, however, reveals a different Russia. Much of its wealth reflects the increased value of energy, not productive economic activity. Russia's armed forces are able to project little in the way of usable military might. The country's population now numbers less than Pakistan's and is declining by 500,000 people per year, leaving large portions of its vast land mass mostly uninhabited. Male life expectancy is now less than 60 years, owing to alcoholism, crime, drugs, disease, and a dreadful public health system.

All this adds up to a Russia that, if not quite a Potemkin state, is anything but great. There are limits to what Russia can accomplish in the world in any positive sense, although its capacity to be a spoiler or create problems is considerable. Decisions made in Moscow can affect world energy prices, the future of the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, and the success of terrorists. For better and for worse, Russia still matters. But how much will it matter?

One question concerns political stability. In order to remain intact and functional, the country needs a political system and a society that persuade talented young people to stay in Russia—and that provide them with the education to develop their talent. There also must be limits on the power of the central government and the presidency, a degree of regional autonomy, and rule of law—in short, the rudiments of a modern state and democracy. Alas, Russia is moving more in the opposite direction; political power is becoming more, not less, concentrated.

The economic picture is similarly uncertain. High energy prices are a boon to Russia's economy, but, as is often the case in the Middle East and other oil- and gas-rich regions, they can be a burden as well, feeding corruption and discouraging real economic activity. The challenge for Russia's leaders is to use its oil wealth to educate Russia's people and rebuild Russia's infrastructure, thereby ensuring global competitiveness and employment growth.

Russia also needs a national security strategy to complement its political and economic renewal. All stick and little carrot has failed to quell Chechen nationalism, and President Vladimir Putin's similarly heavy-handed attempts to control Russia's so-called "near abroad"—as in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution—have proven no more successful.

Neither will any posture succeed that seeks to put Russia forward as a geopolitical counterweight to the United States. Such a strategy might be politically satisfying to some, but Russia lacks the resources to compete with the United States and needs good bilateral relations in order to proceed with its own internal transformation.

At the same time, the best way to help bring about a more liberal Russia—one that promises to be more stable at home and more responsible abroad—is by working with it. The outside world can and should support the strengthening of civil society, independent media, and a true transfer of political power in 2008.

Isolating Russia makes no sense. Russian membership in the World Trade Organization has the potential to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, and give Russia a stake in better relations with the outside world. Closer ties between Russia and the European Union make sense for similar reasons.

There should also be some understanding for what Russia and the Russian people have gone through over the past two decades. Losing a country and a special place in the world is the sort of trauma that could lead to the emergence of extreme and potentially violent nationalism.

Russia should be treated as a major power, which means it should be consulted on important global issues. Its voice should be heard on matters ranging from terrorism and weapons proliferation to global climate change and energy policy. Next year's G-8 meeting in Russia provides an opportunity to do all of this and more.

Amid all the attention being devoted to China and the potential for competition or even conflict with the United States, it should not be forgotten that Russia's future hangs in the balance, for history suggests that declining powers can pose as great a challenge to world order as rising ones. One need only consider Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey at the start of the 20th century or the former Yugoslavia at its end.

So far, the decline of what was the Soviet Union has proceeded relatively well; Russia, the principal successor state, has avoided all-out civil war and war with its neighbors. But the challenge of integrating Russia remains. At best, Russia is a potential partner in the effort to manage globalization's challenges; at worst, it is a potential problem. What is certain is that how Russia develops will be a key factor in determining the character of this century, no less than the last.

Project Syndicate

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The Opportunity: America's Chance to Alter History's Course."

Family planning and news values

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DAVAO—SPEAKING AT AN ORIENTATION FOR the local media in this city, GMA-7 reporter Susan Enriquez acknowledged that the media have not exactly lived up to their potential role in communicating the urgency and necessity of family planning in this country.

"The media have not given the issue the proper attention," Enriquez acknowledged, speaking in Filipino. "Much of our news tend to center on politics and disasters. It's difficult to convince our editors that a story on family planning deserves to be aired. When a rally or some political development comes up, we're told: 'Let's just air your story tomorrow.'"

Family planning and reproductive health would forever be consigned to low news priority status unless, joked Susan, "a man underwent a tubal ligation and not a vasectomy—that would really be news!"

But is it really true, as Enriquez mused, that "family planning has no news value"? Or are the media simply finding it difficult, as a woman reporter noted, "to make family planning interesting and sexy"?

This indeed is a puzzle, since reproductive issues are, after all, all about sex, fertility and reproduction.

We would find this dilemma amusing if it didn't have very real and indeed tragic consequences for Filipino families. Enriquez, who hosts the weekly magazine show "Kay Susan Tayo" aside from her reporting duties, says that based on her field coverage "it's in urban poor areas where mothers don't seem to be conscious of the need to limit the size of their families. Their motto seems to be 'the more the merrier.' Those who are better off are the ones who say they want to plan their families."

The environment would also seem to affect the attitudes of couples, notes Enriquez. She mentions the "*kantiyaw* (teasing) factor," as when a man who says he intends to undergo a vasectomy is suddenly dissuaded when his friends and neighbors start "warning" him about losing his manhood.

* * *

IT'S certainly disheartening to find out that poor parents, who can least afford to provide their children the basic needs such as food, education, health care and nurturing, would be the ones having more children—five or six on average, compared to the national average of three or four children.

But perhaps it's not so strange to find poorer couples leaving their children's fate to chance and providence rather than planning ahead and preparing for the future. When you live on subsistence and your biggest concern each day is simply finding the means to feed yourself and your family, it makes little sense to plan for a future over which you have no control or even influence.

Sure, an unwanted pregnancy might cause considerable anxiety or stress. But, what is one more source of hardship in a life of constant struggle? Poor women perhaps have learned how to cope or even accept life's many challenges, including an unexpected and unwanted pregnancy. A new pregnancy simply means further scrimping on the family's already strained resources, with the parents perhaps finding acceptable the risk that only the hardiest of their children would survive to adulthood.

Another coping mechanism is induced abortion, which is more prevalent, especially in the poorest communities, than our "moral guardians" would have us believe. Enriquez observes that when she visits a community where an abortion provider enjoys a brisk business, she is hard put to find anyone willing to give her the abortion provider's identity or address. "The community protects her," she notes. "To them she is providing a valuable and necessary service."

* * *

THIS is why reaching young people and instilling in them the need to make plans for their future, to dream big, and most importantly, to ensure that these dreams come true and that their future.will go according to plan, may be a more effective family planning campaign than simply flooding localities with contraceptives.

Before a couple or a mother can be motivated to plan a family, time her pregnancies, or make decisions about fertility, they must first be convinced that a better future awaits them. Only then can they be bothered to practice or adopt family planning.

Enriquez also observes, a view which is validated by current research, that religion or morality plays only a minimal role in the decision-making process of a couple on whether and what family planning method to use. "When I ask the women what method they use or prefer, they say it depends on what's available at the health center and what they can most afford. Those who don't practice family planning say they can't afford it, or they are afraid of side effects. Only very rarely do I hear anyone mentioning religion or the Church."

* * *

IF lack of motivation and poor awareness are the main reasons those who most need family planning are the least likely to adopt it, then it's clear the media have a big role to play in the campaign.

It's certainly a shame that while hundreds of millions are spent on successfully convincing the public to buy a brand of shampoo, toothpaste or cell-phone service, so little is spent on "marketing" a vital social need like reproductive health, specifically family planning.

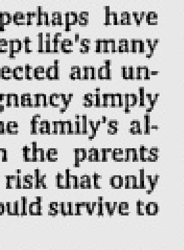
Enriquez succinctly puts the issue in perspective when she explained that her reporting on family planning efforts is born of a personal advocacy, her individual commitment to "helping" others by giving them the information and motivation they need to create happy and successful families.

If it takes but a small number of committed people to change the world, as Margaret Mead asserted, all it takes to make a difference in the media is the personal commitment of an individual, who not only believes in reproductive health as a social good, but also as an individual right.

Santacruzan in Yokohama

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



LAST SUNDAY, ON THE INVITATION OF SYLVIA Lopez-Lacuna of the Manila International Sister Cities Association, I found myself in downtown Yokohama, following the tail-end of a "Santacruzan." I'm ashamed to admit that I only know of the Santacruzan from picture books and that I have never participated in or seen one live. To complicate things further, this expatriate Santacruzan was held in October rather than in May, and was heralded by a rowdy but effective Ati-atihan group flown in straight from Pandacan. The Zagalas were very pretty indeed, clothed in designer gowns and escorted by fully clothed hunks from Maryo J. de los Reyes' Maskulados. Compared to the fair-skinned Japanese, these guys would have been better off called the Muscuvados. All was quite surreal and gave me an idea of what a "Wow Philippines" poster feels like when it is looked upon by foreign eyes.

My intentions though were more academic. I wanted to re-trace Jose Rizal's footsteps in this famous port city because the much-talked about Jose Rizal-O Sei san relationship is the historical link that ties Manila with Yokohama. My first stop was the New Grand Hotel facing the harbor. Rizal stayed in the original hotel that has since been torn down to give way to a bigger, newer, more modern one.

Rizal's letters and diaries in Japan are so sketchy it will take some effort to reconstruct his life here from Feb. 28, 1888 till his departure for San Francisco, USA on April 13, 1888.

All we know is that, on the voyage from Hong Kong to Japan, he was seasick and that he disliked the food served on board. He seemed to have enjoyed Japan a great deal but didn't get to write much about his travels. One day, I hope to visit all the places he listed down by name: Yokohama, Edo or Tokyo, Utsonomiya, Nikko, Kodzu, Odawara, Tonosawa, Mimoto, Miyanoshita, Oshihama, Kamakura, Todsuka, Hakone, etc. All of these places he visited on foot and even on a *jinriskisha* or rickshaw. He found the rickshaw repugnant and said so in a letter to his friend Blumentritt: "I am disgusted to see a man run like a horse." Yet he rode in one.

There are other words floating about in the diary that he scribbled to aid his memory, and they are worth investigating, too: Grand Hotel, Caballero Carrere, Usahi Maru, O Sei-San, Tokio Hotel, Shiba Ysarago, Meguro, Mume, Sakura, Subaki, Chodji, kiku, Feliciano Espino escapee from Pangasinan. Rizal was normally a compulsive and dedicated diarist, so it is significant that he wrote so little in Japan. Perhaps, this gap in his correspondence and diaries is connected to the fact that he stayed in the Spanish Legation in Japan and he suspected that the authorities went through his things when he was out of the house. This we will never know.

The New Grand Hotel sits across Yamashita Park where, beside a rose garden, you will find a simple granite block with a bronze likeness of Artemio Ricarte, not Rizal. This brings us to something that both the Philippines and Japan can do next year on the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. With the permission of the Japanese government or the City of Yokohama, maybe, the National Historical Institute could install a marker on the façade of the New Grand Hotel to remind both Japanese and Filipinos today that Rizal stayed there in 1888.

Another marker could be installed in the site of Ricarte's residence at 149 Yamashita-cho. We did not have the chance to visit this place but we were told it is now a Chinese restaurant, quite apt because Ricarte and his wife Agueda established a Filipino restaurant there called the Karihan Luvimin. Most Filipinos (including Manuel Quezon) who passed by Yokohama in those days made a trip to this Karihan to taste food that reminded one of home, and also to listen to Ricarte and his stories. There is an extant photograph of the *karatula* or billboard that has a Japanese text on the sides and the text reads: "A.E. ni R Karihan Luvimin Blg 149 Yamashitacho, Yokohama." The initials are those of Agueda Esteban de Ricarte who presumably did the cooking. During his stay there, "Vibora" (Viper) presided over the annual commemoration of Rizal and Bonifacio Days.

It's a pity that Rizal tends to overshadow everyone else. When I would casually mention the idea of remembering Ricarte next year, I would be rebuffed and told that people want to memorialize Rizal and his Japanese girlfriend. While we are on the topic, perhaps, we could push the parameters even further; aside from Rizal and Ricarte, another Filipino resident of Yokohama, who should be honored and remembered with a historical marker, was Mariano Ponce. It was in Ponce's home in Yokohama that expatriate revolutionaries met to plot and send arms to Emilio Aguinaldo in the Philippines to sustain the Filipinos in the Filipino-American War. We actually have a photograph of Ponce with Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the founder of modern China, who was a regular visitor to this Filipino home we have yet to locate.

History is an often neglected route to diplomacy. With our heroes having been temporary residents in Japan in the last century, we have much ground on which to build a closer relationship with Japan.

* * *

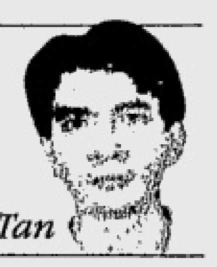
Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Kalantiaw complex

I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT THE CODE OF KALANTIAW IN high school, and I still remember how our class tried very hard to suppress our snickering at the name of the chief who supposedly formulated it, for a reason that I will explain later.

The Code, which lists 36 different offenses with 15 punishments, has been taught in schools for many years. Supposedly dating to the precolonial period, it is cited as "proof," if I remember right from my teachers, that the Philippines had a civilization before the Spaniards arrived.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

But to my high school classmates at the time, the Code seemed rather odd, not just because of the name of the chief who supposedly formulated it but also the prescribed penalties for assorted "crimes." For example, the penalty for stealing from "headmen" was being exposed to ants for half a day, which was the same punishment used for killing a black cat during the new moon.

Fabrication

In the 1960s, the historian William Henry Scott conducted a thorough investigation of the Code and other so-called prehispanic documents and presented his findings in a book, "Prehispanic Source Materials for the Study of Philippine History," published in 1968. His conclusion was that the Code, together with some other alleged precolonial documents were "deliberate fabrications with no historic validity. There is therefore no present evidence that any Filipino ruler by the name of Kalantiaw ever existed or that the Kalantiaw penal code is any older than 1914."

The year 1914 was when someone named Jose Marco first presented his so-called precolonial documents to historians and convinced them of their authenticity. This included the Code of Kalantiaw, which was supposed to date back to 1433, discovered in the possession of a Panay ruler in 1614 and eventually translated by a priest, Jose Maria Pavon, in the 19th century.

Scott was able to expose the tortuous route through which the Code supposedly made it into the 20th century, showing the many inconsistencies and contradictions in the claims around the Kalantiaw document as well as other materials Marco claimed to be prehispanic, for example, maps and a 7-day calendar supposedly used in the Visayas.

Need for a past

After Scott's book was published, there was a minor stir, and some rather embarrassed historians. Some rewrote their textbooks to say questions had been raised about the Code of Kalantiaw as well as other almost revered texts (e.g., the Maragtas Code).

Yet more than 30 years after Scott's exposé, I still get shocked reactions from my students and from friends when I mention these frauds. Some even say, "Is this Scott an American?" insinuating that Americans need to discredit any claims of a precolonial civilization to justify their occupation of the Philippines.

I have to say Scott, who has since passed away, was more Filipino than many Filipinos, serving in Mountain Province as a lay missionary for the Episcopalian Church and devoting his life to history, anthropology and education.

When another historian, Ambeth Ocampo, revived the issue of Kalantiaw, he was practically declared persona non grata in Aklan, where one of the towns has a monument to Kalantiaw. I am told by a friend in Iloilo that there was even a meeting of the Aklan Provincial Board, where one member indignantly pointed out that we all accept the authenticity of the Ten Commandments without the original stone tablets! (Our biblical scholars can go into another debate about this, but that's another issue.)

I think all this furor is indicative of what I call a Kalantiaw complex, marked by strong feelings of inferiority. And as with an inferiority complex, what happens is we try to compensate in an exaggerated way.

I will admit that when I visit he Angkor Wat in Cambodia, or the Grand Palace complex in Bangkok, or Borobodur in Indonesia, I do feel this Kalantiaw complex. Without huge monuments and temples to show off, we begin to wonder if we weren't as "civilized" as our neighbors.

It shouldn't be surprising then that when Jose Marco went around peddling his "prehispanic" documents, even seasoned historians jumped at the chance to purchase them, and to incorporate them into their journal articles and books.

Rene Villanueva wrote a play with a kilometric title: "Kalantiaw: Kagila-gilalas na Kasinungalingan Tungkol sa Isang Kayumangging Bayan" (Kalantiaw: a Grand Deception about a Brown Nation). Toward the end, he has Jose Marco defending himself as he is confronted by historians: "I gave you a past."

Deceit and conceit

But I wonder at times if we should even be proud of the Code of Kalantiaw, real or imagined. Scott points out: "What is incredible about the Kalantiaw Code is not its severity but its capricious viciousness: its catalogue of punishments alone sounds like the mad maunderings of some unfettered sadist—plunging the hand into boiling water three times, cutting off the fingers, laceration with thorns, exposure to ants…"

I have to say Marco was probably brilliant, able to conjure up deceit after deceit by pandering to our national (and historians') conceits. He knew what we wanted, maybe the horrible and arbitrary punishments reflecting our "modern" mind-sets, including our hankering for a strongman (or woman).

Ironically, our government still has an Order of Kalantiaw awarded to retiring Supreme Court justices. Or maybe the award is only appropriate considering some of the atrocious punishments these wise men and women impose on the nation with their rulings.

Perhaps, Marco was a brilliant jester. Even the choice of the name for this alleged prehispanic ruler may have been one big joke. When my high school classmates snickered, it was because in Hokkien, the language used by most ethnic Chinese in the Philippines, "*lantiaw*" means penis. Was Marco aware of this and saying to historians, "Up yours"? Maybe, maybe not, but it's time we learned from this hoax, particularly how false pride can be so dangerous.

Let's get real: There's much we can be proud of from our history, including a precolonial past. On Friday, I'll talk about how we might finally be able to say, "Goodbye, Kalantiaw."

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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'VAT' with me until gov't delivers on EVAT

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN APpeal to my fellow students to "VAT" with me. Let us "Vow to observe Austerity Today" while we wait for our government to keep its promise to deliver social services with the additional revenues from the expanded value-added tax (EVAT).

"VAT" with me by not staying online for hours, just chatting at Yahoo Messaging where we meet every day. After all, we see and meet each other and do talk a lot to one another every day in school, don't we? So if we really need to talk, let us go back to using our phone again and thus help our parents save money and cut costs on our power bills.

"VAT" with me by not trying to keep up with the Joneses. So what if you have a "Jurassic" mobile phone? So what if you only have your old reliable CD player because you can't afford an iPOD? So what if you have a cheaper version of an iPOD mp3 player? Let us remember that these things do not define us as persons.

"VAT" with me by not gorging on our favorite chocolate and junk food, and by skipping on our favorite cold cuts. We can stop being picky with our food and be vegans. This way, we can help our parents cut costs on our monthly budget for food. With the escalating prices of groceries, a little self-denial will go a long, long way.

"VAT" with me by reducing the number of hours we spend in front of the television. We can just choose to watch one program from our favorite TV network. Watching every soap program would be not only an abuse to our electric meter, it can also be detrimental to our report cards.

Personally, I would rather watch the news and be very observant of what's going on around us. When the EVAT is implemented on Nov. 1, I would want to pay very close attention to what our government will be doing and see if there would be any development at all.

I would want to see that my "VAT-ting" would not be in vain. I would want to see that the government would be faithful to its promise to take care of the ordinary Filipinos who are saddled with the VAT.

I would want to see improvements in our infrastructure, particularly in public schools. My heart aches and I'm outraged by the sight of public school children cramped for space in their classrooms, some don't even have chairs.

I would want to see the government finally giving importance to public school teachers who will definitely be burdened by the EVAT, what with their meager salaries. I don't blame teachers who choose to work abroad and those who dream to go abroad. They have families to take care of and provide for.

The government promised that, with the implementation of the EVAT law, the provision for social services would greatly improve. But until then, "VAT" with me.

—PAULINE GIANNA RACELIS ORILLOSA,
2nd year student,
Regional Science
High School for NCR,
paulinegianna@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Atienza is wrong on bikes as signs of backwardness

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO AIR MY comments on Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's opinion that "we would be moving backward" if we encourage the use of bicycles for commuting. According to Atienza, China has banned bicycles in its urban centers. He associates this banning as a sign of progress. It may be true, but that doesn't mean it's the best way to move into prosperity.

China's rapid motorization is one of the reasons why we have a global oil crisis. Perhaps, Atienza hasn't visited places like Portland, Oregon in the United States and Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where biking is not only encouraged but has also become the best mode of transportation for their residents. The excellent network of bike lanes has encouraged people there to leave their cars (used for long-distance trips) and just bike to work. As a result, Amsterdam and Portland are two of the most livable cities in the world. Less pollution, less traffic and less obese people.

It's also not a coincidence that places like Boulder in Colorado and Davis in California are consistently ranked as among the best places to live in, and they are known as bike cities. And these are nowhere near the definition of "backward."

However, the government and employers should do their part in providing facilities and incentives for bike commuters. Yes, our city is polluted and its air could even be harmful to bikers. But that's because everybody is using cars even for short-distance trips. If we use our bikes more, our air will surely improve. Not just for bikers, but for everybody.

—JERRY HIZON,
jzachhizon@yahoo.com

Who is power-hungry?

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO FR. JOAQUIN Bernas' admission that he cannot explain how the 1986 Constitutional Commission could have allowed Section 17 of the Article on National Economy to stay in the 1987 Constitution. ("Temporary State takeover of businesses," PDI, 10/17/05)

There's also another thing overlooked: it is the assumption that all who gets to sit as president has been elected. There is no section in the Constitution that prohibits an "unelected current president" from running again for the presidency. All the Constitution says is: "An elected president cannot run for re-election." Therefore, a president who became president by virtue of succession may run again for the presidency. This should not be so. Allowing a "successor" to run for the presidency would encourage him or her to commit abuses, corruption, etc. to ensure he or she gets a fresh term.

I believe that the absence of a law banning a "successor" to run for the presidency is one of the root causes of our problems today. All that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did after succeeding President Joseph Estrada to the presidency was lay the groundwork for her "election" in 2004, so she can hold on to power until 2010. This she has done during her three-year reign before the elections. And she accuses the opposition of being power-hungry.

Now, if you used public funds for campaign purposes, cheated your way to victory, clung to an office that was never yours from the start, bribed, threatened and silenced everyone from telling the truth, who is power-hungry?

—ERWIN REYES,
erwindreyes@yahoo.com

Incredible excesses, incredible arrogance

I WRITE WITH REGARD TO THE AUG. 28 COLumn of Isagani Cruz, which was titled "Integrity vs hypocrisy."

Cruz insulted me with his derogatory remarks. Both of us are sons of respected public servants, who grew up to be government officials ourselves. While I tried to maintain my respect for him as a former associate justice of the Supreme Court, it appears he would not bother to accord me the same modicum of respect.

Cruz's statement putting me in the same mold as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is completely unacceptable. I won the 1998 presidential elections by a landslide and I cannot be accused of cheating. The plunder case filed against me has been shown before the Sandiganbayan to be weak and completely without merit. I submitted—every step of the way—to democratic processes even as my political enemies railroaded the impeachment case against me. Can this be said of Ms Arroyo?

Incredible excesses? Such a motherhood statement should have been qualified, and I would have been happy to answer Cruz point by point. But since this was not the case, perhaps, I can make a motherhood statement of my own as well: unbelievable arrogance. This is what I believe Cruz possesses in abundance as he persists in his effort to cast me in a negative light while failing to explain—as a former member of the high court—how the esteemed justices of the Supreme Court could have ruled that I had "constructively resigned" (when no such phrase can be found in the Philippine Constitution). In simple terms, a person cannot be deemed resigned without any written notice confirming this. But thus far, no one, not even Cruz, seems to care to explain this to the people adequately.

In the fourth paragraph of his column, Cruz said I was accused of raiding the public treasury and yet there was already talk of bail. I invite Cruz to review, and review yet again, the charge sheet of my case. Nowhere is it mentioned that I am accused of raiding the public treasury. The political color of the case filed against me has surfaced over the course of my trial before the Sandiganbayan. One by one, every testimony of the Arroyo administration's star witnesses has been demolished. Even experts agree that not one shred of evidence has been presented in court that would show beyond any doubt that I am guilty of any of the crimes I am accused of.

Raiding the public treasury? Yes, some people have done that, among them the infamous governor from Ilocos Sur whose false accusations form the backbone of the cases against me. But the list of those who have done something as shameless as this does not include me—never has, never will.

—JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA,
1 Polk St., North Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.
Pfizer

Today, on his 64th birthday, we pay tribute to

"THE GREATEST PRESIDENT THIS COUNTRY NEVER HAD"

Raul Roco
1941-2005

May the ideals that he lived by… inspire us through this bleak time.

"Public Office is a public trust"

Roco has always believed that "public office, whether elective or appointive, carries a serious responsibility of public service. Therefore it cannot be used for political accommodation, patronage or as a reward for canine loyalty. A public official who acquired his position through these means will surely serve only his own vested interests and that of his Master's."

"It's not the system, it's the people."

As Raul has always said, "whatever the system, if the people running the government are not good, then the government will not be good. You must have a change in the people, not in the Constitution. If we convert to parliamentary, that only means the people cannot choose their leader anymore. The members of Parliament will choose the leader. So instead of enhancing the rights of the people, you are restricting them."

"A leader who has lost the love of the people cannot govern. He or she will have to buy, or use force to make the people follow."

"Guns, goons and gold can only give you a temporary and hollow victory. Even Machiavelli knew that a leader would have to possess the friendship of the people, so that he or she can get their cooperation. History is replete with examples of leaders who thought they could rule by transaction or coercion. Stalin, Hitler, Idi Amin , Papa Doc Duvalier, Sukarno, and Marcos of course. Not only will be they be remembered with unforgiving loathing, but whatever good deeds and goodwill they accomplished in their lifetime would be of no value…a total waste."

"The Filipino is good. It's the leaders who have betrayed him"

Ninoy Aquino was Raul Roco's mentor and friend. So he always reiterates that "Ninoy gave up his life because the Filipino is worth dying for. The Filipino has good DNA. We are a country that keeps surprising itself with new heights of heroism." He then regales us with tales of the taxi driver who returned US$150,000 that his passenger left in the cab; or the Ifugao teacher who used to walk 20 kms a day to teach; or the science teacher who discovered a star that was then named in her honor."

Raul Roco dreamt of a "leadership that will restore decency in politics. Politics that at the very least does not lie, cheat or steal." In his lifetime, Raul has exposed and berated the ignominy committed by our leaders. The list, too long to document, included corruption, plunder, betrayal of public trust…the same transgressions that made him one of the first to ask for GMA's resignation and call for a snap election.

**If you believe in the same ideals as Raul Roco,
call 631-9534 and ask how you can be counted.**

AKSYON
DEMOKRATIKO

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Elliot visits Benguet school

By Delmar Cariño
La Trinidad, Benguet

THIS IS ONE JET-SETTING toy with a purpose. Elliot, a stuffed toy moose from a private high school in Sweden, had started a global journey aimed at improving the communication skills of high school students and enhancing cultural and historical exchanges among them via the Internet.

The toy moose was mailed Sept. 3 from the EBBA Pettersons Privatskola in Radiovagen, V. Frolunda, Sweden and was received on Oct. 14 by the Cordillera Regional Science High School (CRSHS) in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The CRSHS is hosting Elliot's first stop in an international itinerary that will bring him to schools as far as Russia and Africa.

Contained in a brown box, Elliot was accompanied by two plastic-laminated sheets of paper. The first sheet talked about where it came from, and the second asked nine questions that the receiving school's English class must answer by posting their replies daily and in diary form, on its website (www.webba.info).

CRSHS teacher Soraya Faculo, whose junior English class had been assigned to welcome Elliot, said the school got involved in the traveling moose project last year when it launched its information and communications technology (ICT) program.

The project was a follow-up to the ICT training given to selected public high schools by Microsoft, in collaboration with the Department of Education, in Cebu City in December last year. The teachers were taught multimedia skills during the training.

Faculo, 34, one of the trainees, said the schools were required to come up with projects in partnership with other high schools, in the Philippines or abroad.

The projects have three components – international letter writing or ePal (knowing friends via electronic mail), reading (reading a common story posted on the Internet and exchanging ideas about it), and the "traveling journalist," where Elliot came in, she said.

THIRD-YEAR students Cherielyn Pacio and Dexter Caluza sit with Elliot, the toy moose sent to their school from Sweden. Elliot started a global journey to improve the communication skills of high school students and enhance cultural and historical exchanges among them through the Internet.

DELMAR CARIÑO

Elliot acts as the "journalist" who shares his reports (via the answers to his questions) to students who follow his travels worldwide.

Faculo said the CRSHS had established learning partnership agreements with nine schools – the San Isidro High School in Makati City for the reading project; Shenzen Foreign School (Shenzen, China), Omagari Junior High School (Akita, Japan), Girls Orphanage (India), Ivana Buchtova (Czechoslovakia), a high school in Los Angeles (California), Melbourne Catholic School (Florida), and Hwamyong High School (Busan, South Korea) for the ePal; and the EBBA Pettersons Privatskola in Sweden for the traveling journalist.

At the CRSHS, students welcomed Elliot, which they fondly called a "teddy bear," with hugs. The toy moose also drew the curiosity of all students and teachers on campus.

Third-year students Cherielyn Pacio and Dexter Caluza said that on Oct. 17-21, Elliot sat with them in the classroom, as if he were a visiting student. They even took Elliot to the town's strawberry fields for a stroll.

Elliot's stay ended on Monday, as the school had been required to mail him to his next destination – the Colegio San Francisco de Asis at Nueva Imperial, Region de la Araucania in Chile.

Caluza said he was sad that Elliot was leaving. "But we had a nice time with him. He was a good guest and he was unique."

"We will surely miss him because we had hugged him daily for a week. He is only a teddy bear but since he came from Sweden, we felt we had found a friend from that country," Pacio said.

Towns profit from junking of gigantic cement plants

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Bolinao, Pangasinan

THIS IS A STORY OF TWO towns in western Pangasinan that rejected multibillion-peso cement plant complexes proposed by international companies in their midst years ago.

Bolinao and Agno made it to national and international headlines when their residents bitterly fought protracted wars to stop the projects. Local and foreign environmentalists and marine scientists supported their causes.

It was Bolinao – a town gifted with pristine beaches, caves, waterfalls, verdant hills, islands, rivers and 8,000 hectares of coral reefs in the Lingayen Gulf – which first caught the eyes of foreign investors.

In 1992, the Tuntex Group of Companies of Taiwan and its Filipino and Japanese partners proposed a P13-billion package of a cement factory, coal-fired power plant, quarry area, wharf and a 10-km conveyor belt.

Most of the people refused to be swayed by the promises of employment and development, and campaigned against the project. On Aug. 6, 1996, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rejected the plant's environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

A year after the euphoria in Bolinao had died down, it was Agno's turn to wage a war on yet another foreign investor, Goldsun Cement Corp. of Taiwan, and its partners, Nihon Cement Corp. of Japan and GML Corp. of the Philippines.

Like Bolinao, Agno boasts of picturesque beaches fronting the South China Sea, rolling green hills, and a generally unspoiled ecology. Both towns also have natural seaports that would have made it easier to transport cement to other countries.

Underneath their grounds are rich deposits of limestone, silica and other materials needed for producing cement. But both towns have something more important in common -- people who will stand firmly when their towns' ecological purity is at stake.

The "war" in Agno ended on March 29, 2003 when Goldsun's extended ECC lapsed after the proponents failed to introduce any form of development in the project site.

Tourists return

Ten years after Bolinao's fight, tourists have started returning.

Margaret Celeste, one of those who led the campaign against the cement plant as head of the Movement of Bolinao Concerned Citizens Inc., said eco-tourism was the "better alternative" to the environmentally destructive plant.

"We have been proven right," she said. "There were no regrets about our decision to reject the plant. The town has gone a long way and the people never looked back."

Both residents and tourists saw the area's potentials as an eco-tourism destination and started to invest in resorts and hotels.

Celeste said the town had always attracted foreigners and domestic tourists. Her guests at the family-owned Celeste Resort were usually Americans and Europeans who would stay for weeks, even months, to enjoy the town's natural beauty, she said.

It is a different story altogether after the cement plant project was junked in 1995, when resorts mushroomed on the beaches overlooking the Lingayen Gulf and the South China Sea.

The town used to offer only "low-medium end" resorts, but high-end establishments soon opened, mostly in the western side.

"Visitors have choices now," said Ronaldi Torres, vice president of the Bolinao Hotel, Resorts and Restaurants Owners Association.

Agno's experience

Agno is still reeling from the protracted war.

Like in Bolinao, the opposition to the Goldsun-proposed cement plant was led by nongovernment organizations, such as the Agno Concerned Citizens for Ecologically Secured and Sustained Development (Access).

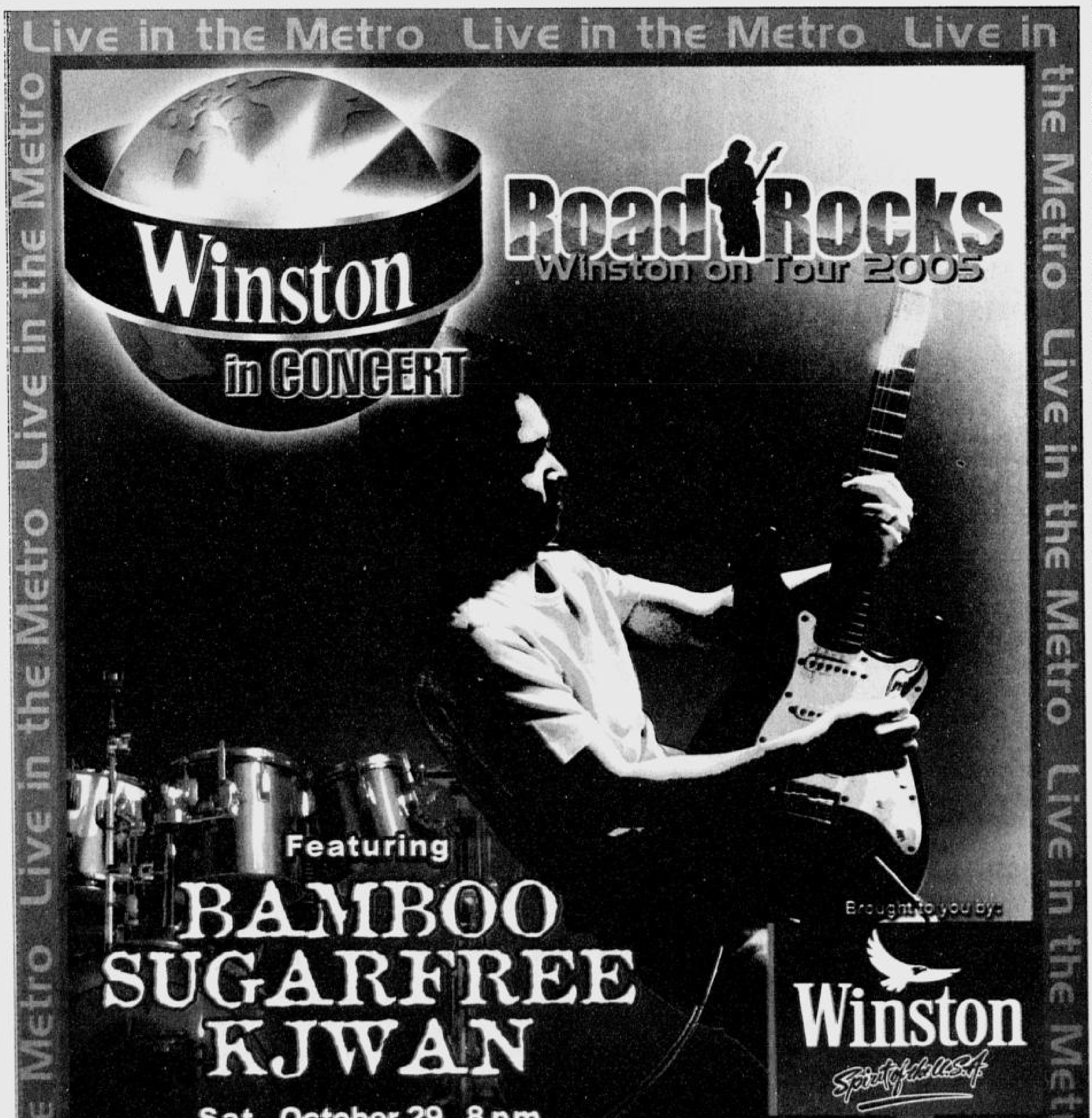
Lydia Colobong, Access vice president, said the NGOs were trying their best to introduce developments in the town but were met with indifference by local officials, most of whom supported the establishment of the cement plant.

Colobong said their proposed activities focused mainly on agriculture and fishery.

Access has teamed up with Volens, a Belgian NGO, to promote organic farming and undertake reforestation projects in the area. Volens has put up a nursery of trees in Boneg village, one of the proposed quarry sites.

Colobong noted advances in agriculture, such as in the production of yellow corn and organic rice, while fish catch was still abundant.

The Diocese of Alaminos' Social Action Center is helping the residents by putting up *payaw* (artificial reefs) in the sea to increase catch. Fishermen are also planning to establish fish sanctuaries.



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Cebu lawyers boycott Concom meeting

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—LAWYERS BELONGING TO THE Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City chapter and a militant group yesterday boycotted the consultation of the Consultative Commission here aimed at getting the sentiment of the people on proposed constitutional reforms.

Saying the activity is a waste of time and money, IBP-Cebu City chapter president Alex Tolentino said the Concom consultation is suspect because its members are appointees of the President and are beholden to her.

Tolentino and Bayan Muna regional coordinator Arman Perez, in separate interviews, also questioned why the three-day consultation, which began yesterday, was being held at the posh Waterfront Hotel and Casino in Lahug, Cebu City, when the country is in a financial crisis.

"That's a very expensive (hotel) ... We don't want to go there (because) we (don't want) to (be involved) in spend(ing) taxpayers' money," Tolentino said.

Perez said their group was invited but, like the IBP-Cebu City, they opted not to attend believing that the activity was a waste of time and money.

"It is an act of futility. The government is just wasting the taxpayers' money for this body which was commissioned by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Perez said.

Perez said because the consultation was held in a luxurious hotel, the poor sector and farmers could not be heard.

Perez said the body should have used the Capitol social hall so that everybody could go there easily.

Tolentino yesterday calculated that the activity alone in Cebu City could cost at least P1 million. He noted that the price of a meal in Waterfront Hotel ranged from P400 to P500 per head while snacks cost an average of P200 per person.

The Concom delegates who stayed at the hotel would also spend a minimum of P4,000 a night, he said.

Tolentino yesterday sent a letter to the Concom informing the body's 49 delegates about the decision of the IBP-Cebu City Board of Officers during their meeting last Oct. 21.

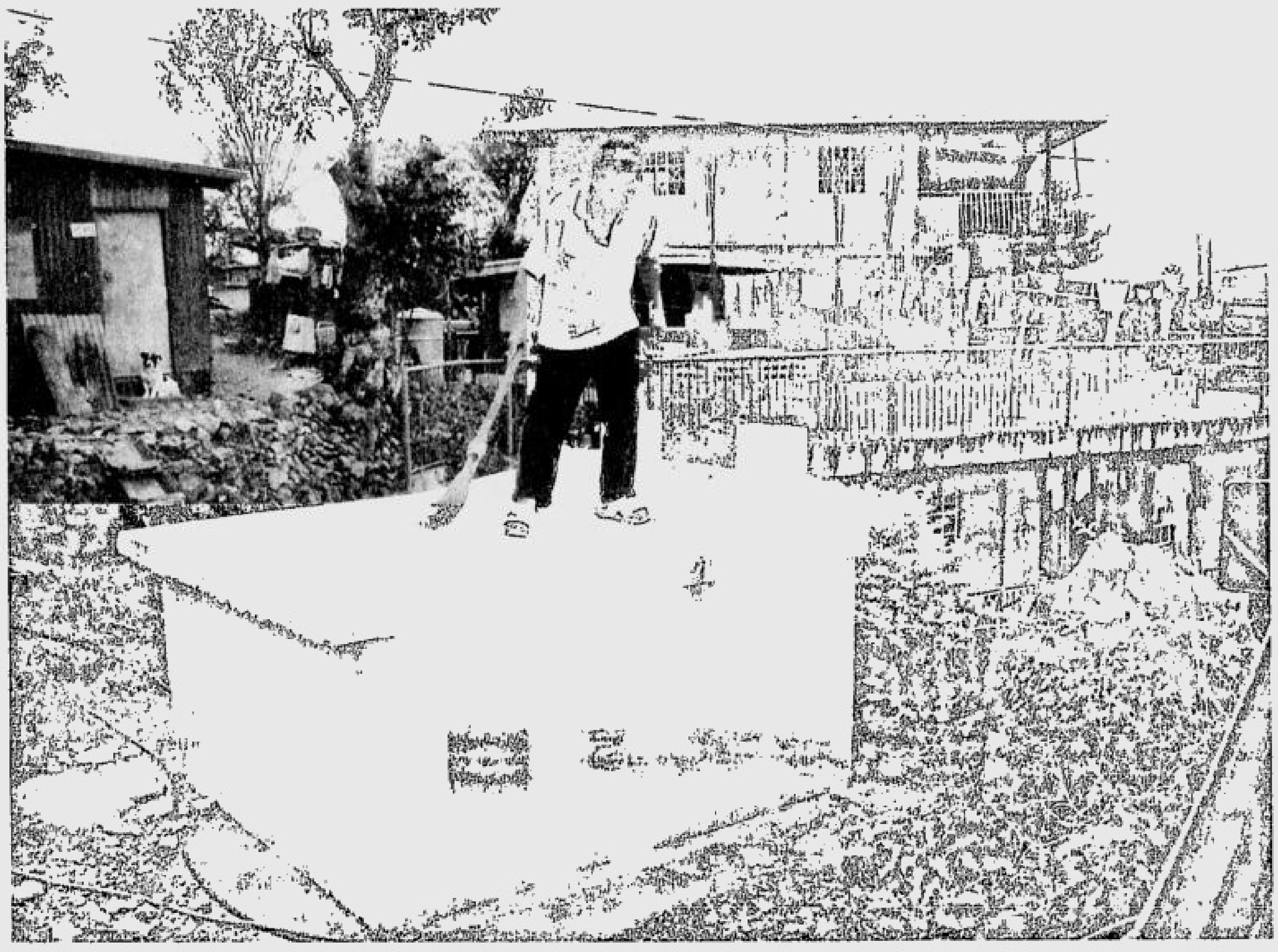
Tolentino said the board of officers unanimously agreed not to attend the consultation for two reasons.

"First, we feel that the consultation will not amount to anything because President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already decided to change the Constitution through a constituent assembly from a presidential to parliamentary system. We don't think that this Consultative Commission which is a creation of the President will go against the plan of President Arroyo," Tolentino said in the letter.

Second, Tolentino said, they also unanimously passed a resolution expressing their opposition against the move to amend or revise the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

He said the resolution was a reiteration of a resolution passed by the IBP-Cebu City board on May 28, 2002, which stated that any move to amend the constitution should be done through a constitutional convention.

Tolentino yesterday stressed they did not question the credibility of the individual members of Concom but of the body as a whole.



ANCESTRAL GROUND

[illegible] PDI Northern Luzon

A man starts to clean the burial ground of a relative in La Trinidad, Benguet in preparation for the annual ritual of All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

ROUNDUP

Cops arrest German in killing

ILAGAN, ISABELA—Police arrested a German who shot and killed two men inside a barangay hall in Jones town on Sunday. Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police director, identified the suspect as Anthony Kampfmann, 51. Barba said Kampfmann met with members of the Realiza family and officials of Barangay Usol in Jones to discuss a land dispute. During the meeting, Kampfmann suddenly drew his .45 cal. pistol and started shooting, reports said. Barba said Rodolfo Castro, barangay captain, and Frederick Realiza, 40, assistant municipal accountant, died instantly. Wounded were Saturnino Realiza Sr., 64, and Saturnino Jr., 42. ***Villamor Visaya Jr. and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Rebs assassinate village chief

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Suspected communist rebels shot and killed the village chief of Camias in Porac town on Sunday. Police said Bienvenido Capuno, 40, was inside a videoke bar in Barangay Pio in Porac when two men armed with a .45 cal. pistol arrived and shot him. A bar employee, identified as Sarah Lumanlan, was hit by a stray bullet in the left leg. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Car theft suspects held

COTABATO CITY—Government troopers arrested three suspected car thieves in a raid on SK Pendatun Street here on Sunday. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's Sixth Infantry Division, said the suspects, Nasser Hamsiradji, Hassan Kamsi and Abdolgapor Kasim, did not resist arrest after sensing their lair had been cordoned by elements of Task Force Cotabato. Three weeks ago, the suspects allegedly stole a motorcycle owned by Army Sgt. Bernardo Vito inside the latter's home on Notre Dame Avenue. ***Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Bacolod adopts Pacquiao

BACOLOD CITY—Filipino boxing champ Manny Pacquiao has been declared the city's adopted son. The title was conferred on Pacquiao during the city's 67th Charter Day anniversary rites on Oct. 19 and by virtue of Executive Order No. 22 signed by Mayor Evelio Leonardia. "The triumph of Pacquiao against legendary boxers of the world has earned the respect and admiration of the Filipino people and has united us as a nation in the midst of political divisiveness," said the mayor in the EO. Pacquiao, who attended the Charter Day rites, thanked the Bacoleños for their continued support. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Halal certifying body formed; export boost seen

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—The National Halal Fatwa Council has been formed, giving the Philippines a unified certifying body for food prepared according to Islam standards.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Clayton Olalia said the council has also opened up prospects to develop a $3-billion industry with Southeast Asia and the Middle East as export markets.

Members of the council, which was formed on Oct. 12 and chaired by Aleem Moosa Amiril, is in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, holding talks with leaders of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) for a regional poultry venture.

The project that would be financed by Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia is looking at the Philippines as a location because of its bird flu-free status, according to Olalia, head of the Department of Agriculture's halal development program.

He said faith leaders in the council are also touring several countries to study processes and technology in halal preparation.

By December, he said the council expects to be acknowledged in the international Islamic community as the sole national certifying agency for halal food in the Philippines.

He said the regulatory task used to be exercised by the state-managed Office of Muslim Affairs until the Supreme Court recently ruled that the authority belonged to the councils of faith leaders.

The Philippines has not made inroads in the export of halal food in the absence of an internationally accepted certifying agency, he said.

The government, he said, has responded to the need of Muslim Filipinos for halal poultry, beef, fish and vegetables by setting aside P200 million for technical assistance and construction of abattoirs and warehouses until 2010.

A number of private companies, among them the San Miguel Corp., were eager to venture into the growing and packaging of halal food, he said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo has encouraged the opening in Cebu, Davao and Metro Manila of at least five restaurants that would specialize in halal food. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Vice gov says he accepts appeals court ruling on Maliksi

CALAMBA CITY—THE DECISION of the Court of Appeals, which prevented the Office of the Ombudsman from implementing its six-month suspension of Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi, virtually spoiled the birthday celebration of Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla.

Remulla, who filed the graft case against Maliksi for the supposed spurious purchase of P7.5 million worth of rice last year, marked his 38th birthday on Monday.

He said instead of having an extravagant celebration, he hosted a simple party for his family and friends at his residence in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

In a mobile phone interview with the INQUIRER, Remulla admitted that he was disappointed with the decision of the appellate court to grant the preliminary injunction to his erstwhile political ally.

But when asked if the decision spoiled his birthday party, Remulla replied: "Definitely no. My professional life is very different from my personal life."

The resolution, issued by the CA's Fourth Division, said the injunction was necessary as status quo should be maintained as Maliksi was still disputing the decision of the antigraft court to suspend him.

He said he would respect the CA resolution and would not make any appeal to the Supreme Court.

"Although I disagree with the decision, I respect it as an elected public official," he said.

Remulla argued that the CA resolution would be a "very bad precedent" for other graft cases filed at the Ombudsman. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

High costs force shift from 'bangus' to 'tahong'

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN — "Tahong" (mussels) have saved the day for this town's bangus industry, which is beset with problems like polluted waters and high costs of commercial fish feeds.

Lawyer Virgilio Solis Jr., a bangus (milkfish) fish cage operator, said many operators have shifted to tahong culture because of the high costs of feeds and fingerlings.

"Many operators could no longer afford the high cost of production while the market price of bangus is low so bangus culture is not very profitable anymore," he said.

The poor condition of seawater brought about by the bangus industry itself has also resulted in high mortality of the cultured fish.

Several operators have abandoned their bangus cages and are now into tahong culture, Solis said.

Another bonus of mussel culture is that tahong thrive in contaminated water and act as cleansers of the sea. They actually feed on organic matters such as the excess feeds given to the cultured bangus, Solis said.

"So the sea gets cleaner, the bangus can thrive better and the residents are earning," he said.

Mussels were not known to be endemic to the town but somebody must have introduced the species that soon proliferated.

Solis said fish cage operators used to be irritated with the mussels which clung to the cages and destroyed the nets. But they soon found that the shell food culture could be a profitable venture.

"So they put up bamboo poles alongside the cages and so the tahong culture in Bolinao was born," Solis said.

Except for the cost of the bamboo poles and labor, tahong culture operators do not have to spend for feeds so the expense is minimal.

Each bamboo pole costs P50 (P30 for the pole and P20 for handling and setting in the sea), a minimal expense compared to thousands of pesos for a cage structure. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

EXERCISES

Members of the US Deep Reconnaissance Platoon 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from Okinawa, Japan, stand guard as they launch an assault while their Filipino counterparts observe during an exercise on close quarter battle as part of the "Talon Vision 06" joint military exercise inside Clark, a former US base facility in Pampanga.

REUTERS

Cha-cha revives Cordillera autonomy bid

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET – THE proposal for a shift to a federal system of government could be a good venue for the revival of the failed bid to establish a Cordillera autonomous region, a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples official said.

Fernando Bahatan Jr., NCIP Ifugao officer, said the consultative commission formed by Malacañang to study Charter changes should seriously look into the possibility of recommending a provision for the establishment of an autonomous government for the Cordillera.

"The region could be treated as a special region under a federal set up," Bahatan told a recent forum at the Benguet State University here on Monday.

The proposal for autonomy has been rejected twice by Cordillerans in two plebiscites but there is still a legal basis to pursue autonomy, Bahatan said, referring to Executive Order No. 220 issued by former President Corazon Aquino on July 15, 1987.

Cordillerans rejected the establishment of a Cordillera autonomous region in plebiscites held in 1990 and 1998.

Only Ifugao voted yes to the proposal in the 1998 plebiscite but the Supreme Court later ruled that one province could not constitute an autonomous region.

But Bahatan said autonomy for the region would still be feasible since EO 220, which created a Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), still exists legally.

EO 220 formed the CAR comprised of Abra, Kalinga, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Mt. Province and Baguio City.

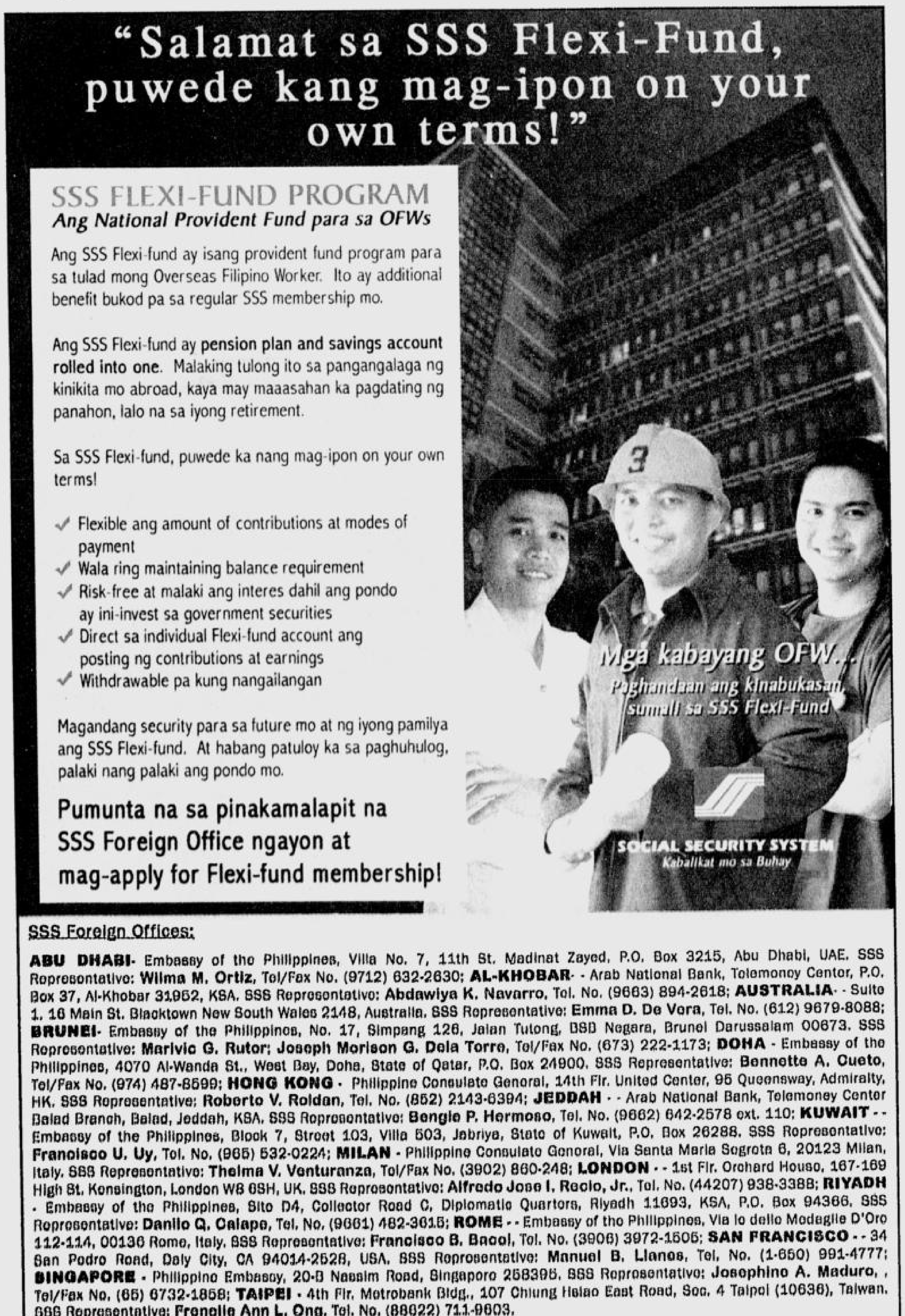
The EO also created three bodies that would prepare the region for autonomy – Cordillera Regional Assembly, Cordillera Executive Board and the Cordillera Regional Security Force.

But following the rejection of autonomy in the 1998 plebiscite, Congress did not appropriate a budget for the three regional bodies in the 1999 national budget.

WILD CATCH

JIMMY DOMINGO

A wild cat from the jungles of Agusan del Norte struggles to get free from a wire cage where it was put following its capture by poachers.



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Falling copra prices worry coconut agency

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY – THE PHILIPpine Coconut Authority in Eastern Visayas is closely monitoring the drop in the prices of copra even as it assured that it has not yet reached critical level.

Joel Pilapil, assistant manager of the regional PCA, said that based on the monitoring, copra prices in the region ranged from P13 to P15 per kilo since August.

He, however, said coconut farmers in the region have nothing to worry about over the current prices as the drop has not reached a "critical level."

Since last year until July of this year, copra prices in Eastern Visayas ranged from P19 to P22 per kilo.

"The reason for the fall of the price was due to less demand of copra in the world market, of which, we don't have any control," Pilapil said.

Eastern Visayas ranks third in the country's coconut producing regions, with more than 600,000 coconut farmers or about 1.7 million dependents. Last year, it generated an income of $51.23 million in exports, notably to Japan, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States.

About 80 percent of the region's produce of copra is sold in the world market while the remaining 20 percent goes to the domestic market. Last year, it produced 522,195 metric tons of copra.

Pilapil said that with the international market dictating the prices of copra, he could not say when its price would go up again.

In 2000, the region's coconut farmers suffered the lowest price of copra, which sold for as low as P5 per kilo.

The "critical level" would be reached if copra would be sold for a "high" of P10 per kilo and a "low" of P2 per kilo, Pilapil said.

But he said he was assured by copra dealers in the region that there was no danger that the price would reach the 2000 level as there was still a demand for copra both in the local and international markets.

With the decline of copra prices, however, Pilapil said it would be best for coconut farmers not to rely completely on copra and instead engage in intercropping their coconut farms with rice or root crops.

Also, he said, the farmers might want to look into the production of virgin coconut oil (VCO), because of the high demand for VCO in the local market.

Pilapil said their office is willing to give coconut farmers the necessary technical assistance to produce VCO.

There are 51 VCO manufacturers operating in the region, producing 10,160 liters per month. It now employs more than 300 workers with an estimated P72 million in annual revenue, Pilapil said.

Man out for vengeance hacks dead own nieces

MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO – Two children were killed in a remote village here on Sunday afternoon after they were hacked by their own uncle, police authorities said Tuesday.

Supt. Chino Mamburam, town police chief, identified the victims as Jesel Rose Bornea, 5 and her sister Mia, 3, both residents of Barangay Kiwanan.

Mamburam said that the suspect, Rodolfo Cuerpo, 37, was looking for Jonathan, the girls' father, to confront him.

He said Cuerpo was mad at Jonathan because he harvested all the vegetables at a neighbor's garden.

Jonathan and Cuerpo were earlier allowed by the owner to harvest vegetables.

Mamburam said Cuerpo was apparently mad because he was virtually left with nothing to pick.

Failing to find Jonathan, the suspect, who was drunk at the time, drew a bolo and hacked the girls, according to Mamburam.

But at the police jail, Cuerpo gave a different reason.

He said he was mad at Jonathan because his cousin had caused him embarrassment and ridicule, aside from physically harming him.

Cuerpo did not show remorse, however.

In Cotabato City, a passenger banca operator died of multiple gunshot wounds on Monday but the suspected assailant failed to escape pursuing policemen.

PO3 Nashrudin Kasim, police investigator said, Tato Lumabao, 38, was at the Old Market area waiting for passengers when shot several times by Maba Otto Abdullah, 21, of this city. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

InqBox Question of the Week

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GMA open to 'principled cooperation' with foes, says Palace

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO is open to "principled cooperation" with her political foes, Malacañang said yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye gave that reaction when asked by reporters whether Ms Arroyo was amenable to a proposal for her to form a coalition government that would include members of the opposition.

"Our President is open to principled cooperation and unity," Bunye said.

Pressed to elaborate on what he meant by "principled cooperation," Bunye said that this "must be based on justice and the generally accepted principles that govern our society."

He refused to elaborate.

Behind the scenes

A Palace official said that a group led by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and Cebu Archbishop Cardinal Vidal—from which the proposal reportedly sprang—met for the second time last Monday to continue their discussions on how to restore political normalcy in the country.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said it was Velarde who initiated the discussions and was responsible for inviting other groups to join the first meeting held two weeks ago.

Lacson, extreme Left out

The official said that, except for the groups of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the extreme Left, representatives from almost all other groups concerned—including those associated with former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Joseph Estrada—were present.

However, the representatives of the two former Presidents were "not as high level" as those of the others, the official said.

One of the things discussed by these groups was the establishment of a coalition government and using Charter change as a "vehicle for political stability," the official said.

Issue of timing

But there was a debate on when the coalition government should be established, with some groups wanting it set up after the 1987 Constitution had been amended and the others wanting it sooner.

The "emerging consensus" was for a new form of government to be installed between 2008 and 2010, the official said.

"The groups will continue talking and trying to get a consensus," the official added.

MOVERS for constitutional change as a vehicle for President Arroyo to cut her term to restore political stability, Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos give the thumbs up at the launch of the 2005 Human Development Report and 4th Gawad sa Makataong Pag-unlad at Heritage Hotel. JESS YUSON

Security beefed up at Palace

MALACANANG HAS INTENSIFIED security measures not only around the Palace but inside the presidential compound as well.

The move was apparently in preparation for the possible arrival of protesters planning to deliver a subpoena to President Macapagal-Arroyo today for her to appear before a "people's court" set up to hear various charges against her.

The Presidential Security Group last night installed a makeshift wall of used galvanized iron sheets to block Gate 7 directly in front of the barricaded Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge entrance to the Palace.

A 10-wheeler military truck was also parked at the main entrance last night with soldiers in full battle gear setting up two collapsible tents as part of efforts to tighten the inspection of vehicles and individuals going to the Palace. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

FVR: No snap polls; groups pushing for it headless

From page A1

"They couldn't do it," Ramos said at a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before leaving for Guangdong, China, for a series of meetings with business executives.

He said the leaders of the anti-Arroyo forces were the leaders of their respective groups.

He favors a snap election only when the country has adopted the parliamentary system.

El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal are reportedly pushing for the holding of snap elections in 2007 through a single amendment to the Constitution to end the political impasse.

It was opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III who said that Vidal and Velarde had asked businessmen from the Makati Business Club, Financial Executives of the Philippines and Management Association of the Philippines at a meeting two weeks ago to lobby Congress to pass the constitutional amendment that would allow for snap elections.

Another group, the Black and White Movement which includes former Cabinet members who are asking Ms Arroyo to step down, wants Vice President Noli de Castro to serve as "transition president" until a special election is held, also two years from now.

The opposition has been waging a campaign to oust Ms Arroyo over charges that she cheated to win last year's presidential election. The President denies rigging the election and refuses to step down.

Lack of critical mass

Ramos said the lack of a "critical mass of opposition" was weakening efforts to remove Ms Arroyo from power.

He said that his call for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term "is for a certain purpose," referring to the shift to a parliamentary form of government.

"I am not saying resign. (It's) cut short her term. What's the difference with resign? You want her to resign tomorrow but that's not possible. What will that bring?" Ramos said.

He wants Ms Arroyo to step down next year.

Instead of a snap election, Ramos reiterated his call for Charter change that would lead to a shift to a parliamentary form of government and electoral reforms.

Vacancy

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the proposal for a snap election or special presidential polls in 2007 would not prosper because of opposition from the administration and its allies.

"That (special election) requires an amendment to the Constitution and given that the allies (of the President) are not agreeable to that, I think this is not realistic," Drilon said.

Responding to the BWM statement that he should serve as a "transition President," Drilon said that whoever the Senate President was had no choice but to act as president once the presidency and vice presidency became vacant.

"That is in the Constitution. It is not a matter of choice. The Senate President takes over should the President and the Vice President resign," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Drilon brushed off questions asking if he was amenable to the BWM call. "It does not have to be me. Whoever is the Senate President at that time has to take over but again that situation would happen if the two officials resign," Drilon said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the opposition would agree to a snap election now, not in 2007.

"We want an immediate snap election not in 2007 which is a prolongation of the term of Gloria," Pimentel said.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said a special election was important but this should only come as part of a comprehensive political, economic and social reform program.

Lusting for power

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reiterated that the holding of a snap election had no constitutional basis.

He said the country "was not about to commit hara-kiri just to satisfy those few who are lusting for power."

"The snap polls will never happen," he said yesterday.

Bunye said the government was "pinning (its) hopes" on the outcome of the shift to a parliamentary-federal form of government.

He said this new form of government would overhaul and stabilize the political system.

In a parliamentary system, snap elections can be held anytime when deemed to be the solution to political and economic crises, according to Ramos.

Thailand and Germany

Ramos cited the snap elections in Thailand after the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and more recently, in Germany, that led to a change in the administration.

In Thailand, Ramos said, the new government "very quickly brought the country out of financial, economic and internal difficulties [and created a] new environment of sustained growth, prosperity and unity."

For their part, the Germans showed political maturity when there was none of the "harsh rhetoric or political infighting" among the leaders and the electorate after Gerhard Schroeder lost to Angela Merkel.

Ramos noted that the Philippines also solved its "deep and political economic problems" through a snap election almost 20 years ago.

'Out of conscience'

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos may have heeded the call to hold a snap presidential election in 1985 "out of conscience," he said.

The snap poll was also called for because of a "bloody insurgency, bloody separatism, nonperforming economy, our reneging on our foreign loans and the great decline in our credit ratings," Ramos said.

The former President said the situation then was similar to the situation now. "Of course that was during a martial law-parliamentary regime in 1985," he said.

Form truth commission

The Bishops-Businessmen's Conference also rejected calls for snap polls.

BBC chair Jose Concepcion said Ms Arroyo should fulfill her commitment to put up a truth commission as proposed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines that would look into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal and other charges of election cheating last year.

The tape refers to wiretapped telephone conversations in which Ms Arroyo allegedly directed an election official, believed to be Virgilio Garcillano, to rig the elections.

The President had promised to put up a truth commission through an executive order but this plan had been shelved due to a lack of interest from Malacañang, especially after she recovered from calls for her resignation.

"We (the BBC) believe that going to the bottom of alleged cheating in last year's elections is the most practical solution to the ongoing crisis because it will resolve all lingering doubts about the President's victory," Concepcion told the INQUIRER shortly after the President delivered a speech before entrepreneurs and students in Makati.

The proposed truth commission, which the BBC wants to be led by former Commission on Elections chair Christian Monsod, has not prospered because of Congress' reluctance to give it the power to subpoena evidence and provide immunity to witnesses, Concepcion said.

He said the creation of a truth commission on election cheating had become more urgent because of the worsening political crisis and the upcoming elections in 2007. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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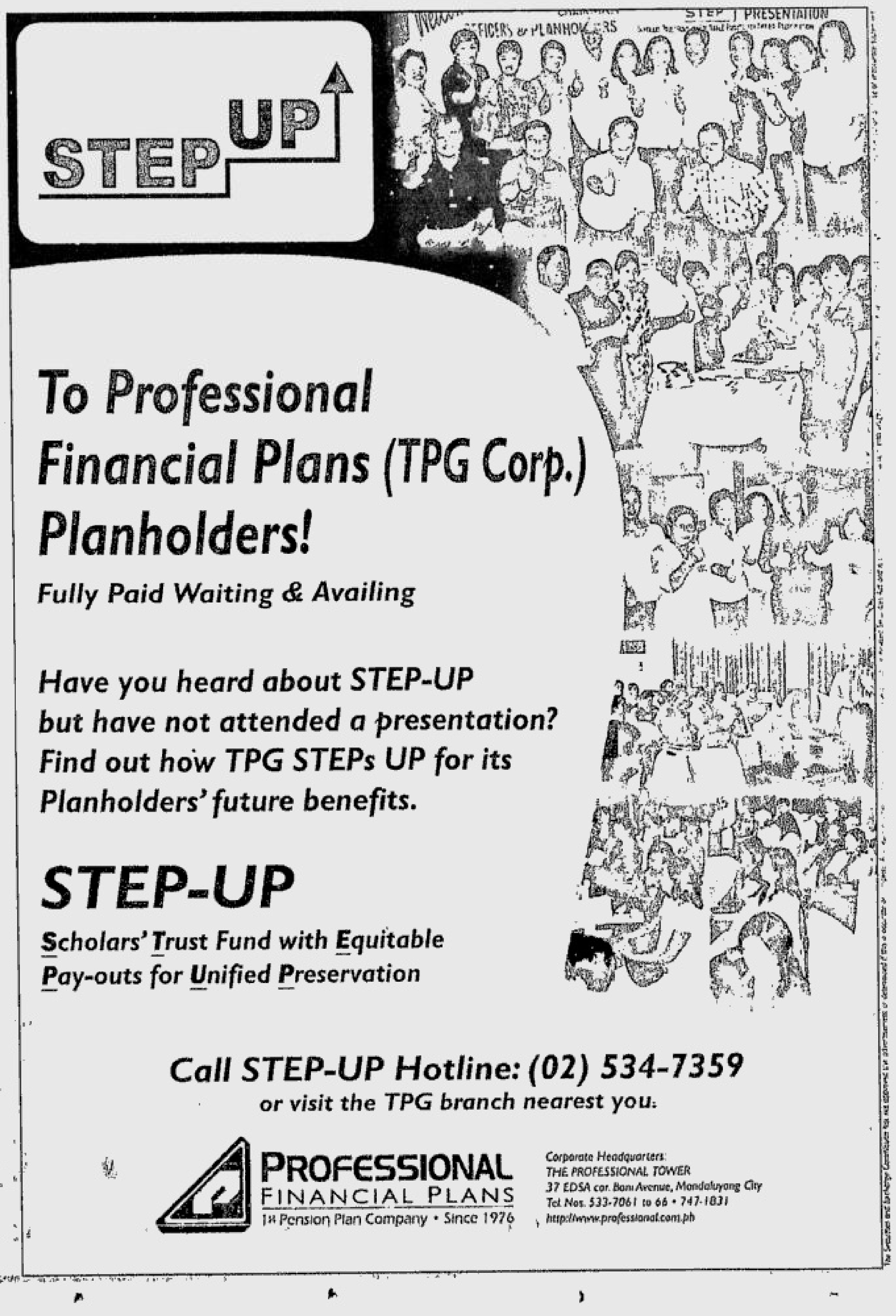

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Gloria critics shoot down coalition gov't

From page A1

with JDV (Speaker Jose de Venecia) and (former President Fidel) Ramos," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

"After all, they are birds of the same feather and, therefore, by necessity they should flock together," Pimentel said in an interview.

The proposal for a coalition government also drew objections from other senators, including some of Ms Arroyo's allies.

"We're not after seats in government," Pimentel said. "We are after her stopping corruption, her entering into anomalous transactions, feeding on 'jueteng' money and a thousand and one acts ... that coalition ... will not solve that."

"It's just a ploy to make it appear that she's reaching out to the opposition," he added.

Palace terms

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the President was open "to principled cooperation" with the opposition. *(See related story on Page A21.)*

Speaker Jose de Venecia earlier told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo had endorsed in principle the idea of a coalition government that would include members of the political opposition, during a meeting with El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde.

De Venecia said he was at the meeting between Ms Arroyo and Velarde when the matter was discussed.

Suspicion on both sides

A coalition government was reportedly the President's response to suggestions from civil and religious sectors that she cut short her term, fixed to last until 2010, to pave the way for a snap election in 2007.

"I can't imagine the opposition sitting in the Cabinet of a leader whose legitimacy we are questioning and who does not enjoy the support of 80 percent of the people," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

He said the setup simply would not work.

"There's too much doubt and suspicion from both sides, not to mention the many unresolved issues involving GMA's legitimacy and credibility," Lacson said.

No place for dual loyalties

"The [Cabinet] is not the place to nurse dual loyalties," administration Sen. Ralph Recto said. "You cannot work for the President during the day and confer with her adversaries after sundown. Given this setup, I do not know how a coalition government can exist."

For his part, Sen. Richard Gordon said: "All of these proposals are nice but let's look at it from the pragmatic point of view. Once you join the Cabinet, you cannot go against the President."

SANITIZING THE PRESIDENT. Ms Arroyo tries a skin product during the Entrepreneurship and Basic Education Conference at the Manila Polo Club on Tuesday. LYN RILLON

"My understanding is you can argue with the President within the Cabinet but the moment she says this is where we are going, that's where you go and if you don't agree, then you withdraw," he added.

Gordon said that this might put the country "again in a situation where people walk out and claim that they cannot do anything and that will exacerbate the problem."

'Mouse won't bite'

Only Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, was open to the proposal.

"My complaint is that we've been talking about this for a long time," Angara said. "It's been dragging on and we're running out of time ... We must now demonstrate that we can move from talk to action."

He said Ms Arroyo must lay on the table a reform agenda that would be the basis for cooperation.

Leftist lawmakers scoffed at the proposal. "It's a mere political bait ... that a mouse won't even bite," said Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano, adding: "A devil who offers bread to her enemies is still a devil."

Fellow Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said all talk of power-sharing and snap elections would only give Ms Arroyo "a graceful way out and serve to recognize her illegitimate claim to the presidency."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said any talk of reconciliation between Ms Arroyo and her foes would go nowhere unless the issue of her alleged manipulation of the 2004 election was fully resolved.

"Unless the truth about this basic sociopolitical issue, with its strong moral overtones, is revealed and known, calls for dialogue and reconciliation are in vain ... and offensive to elementary justice," Cruz said in a statement.

For Cruz, any resolution to the political crisis should start by determining if Ms Arroyo had indeed cheated in last year's election, as insinuated in the "Hello, Garci" tapes dealing with her supposed conversation with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

But where is Garci?

Cruz said the mysterious disappearance of Garcillano, who has been reported to have gone abroad, also needed closure.

"Why was he nowhere to be found when he was still in the country? Who allowed him to leave for foreign countries? What is the Filipino diplomatic community abroad doing to find him? Where is he? Is he still alive?" Cruz asked.

Beware of Trojan horses

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez cautioned administration leaders against entering into a coalition deal.

"It depends on the good faith of the opposition. If this would lead only to Trojan horses getting in, then let's not have any of it. We should be wary of Trojan horses," Gonzalez said.

"We should not have opposition members who would only wreak havoc in the Cabinet."

With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana

Anti-Muslim ...

From page A1

struggles—and their impact on the human development of Filipinos.

By the report's definition, human development is the "process of enabling people to have wider choices." It is measured in terms of life expectancy, literacy, school enrollment and income levels.

Toby Monsod, HDN's main coordinator for the project, said the network commissioned Pulse Asia to conduct the poll on March 3-16.

The results were included in Pulse Asia's quarterly Ulat ng Bayan for that period.

Standard sample

While Pulse Asia follows a standard size of 1,200 adult respondents for its quarterly surveys, the HDN questionnaire was not included when the pollsters went to Muslim villages in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur because of the "sensitive nature" of the questions.

Thus, Monsod said, only 1,185 respondents were covered by the HDN. But she said the deviation from the standard sampling was not expected to have a significant bearing on the margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

In the 150-page report, the HDN devoted an entire chapter on anti-Muslim biases in Philippine society because "an alarming picture of apparent discrimination against Muslims emerged" in the course of the research.

In general, 33-39 percent of Filipinos across the country show "latent anti-Muslim bias" in various ways, the study said.

"Personal testimonies of anti-Muslim bias are not imagined or random," it said.

Abu Hassin or Danilo?

The HDN fielded a total of 16 questions through the Pulse Asia survey.

Four "proximity" questions were designed to find out whether the respondent was willing to accept a Muslim male for a boarder in his or her home, hire a female Muslim domestic helper, hire a Muslim worker, or live near a Muslim community.

The question read: "Suppose two men applied for the one position open at a fast-food restaurant. Both have finished third-year college, are equally qualified, and intend to work in order to earn money for tuition.

"[Whom] would you choose—Abu Hassin Malik or Danilo de los Reyes, or either of the two?"

Forty-four percent said they would choose either of the two men, 46 percent said they would go for the "Christian," and only 4 percent chose the man with the "Muslim-sounding name," the study said.

The same pattern emerged with respect to the choice of domestic helper: 46 percent said either a Muslim or Christian "DH" would do, 40 percent wanted a Christian, and only 7 percent preferred a Muslim.

And to the choice of boarder: 47 percent said they would welcome either a Muslim or Christian male boarder in the house; 42 percent, a Christian, and only 3 percent, a Muslim.

'Stereotype' questions

In the "stereotype" questions, around half of the respondents agreed when asked if they considered Muslims to be prone to run amok, were extremists, or were as hateful of non-Muslims.

But the majority—59 percent—believed that Muslims were "not oppressive to women."

The study said the armed conflict in Mindanao since 1975 had been costing the country P5 billion to P10 billion yearly in economic losses and foregone investments.

But "more difficult to value," it said, were "the costs due to injuries and indignities suffered by victims of discrimination, or the loss of cultural traditions among minorities, or the rise of prejudice, social and ethnic tensions in mainstream society [that] spill over across generations."

Muslim solon not surprised

LANAO DEL SUR REP. BENASING Macarambon, one of several Muslim leaders in the House of Representatives, yesterday said he was not surprised by the results of the UN survey.

"What can you expect from a society such as ours? Until now, there are *moro-moro* dramas and Spanish colonial literature [that do not present a fair picture of Muslims]," the lawmaker said in a phone interview.

"Then there is the emergence of British and US campaigns against Muslims, [stereotyping] Muslims as terrorists. [There really is] religious bias," he said.

Macarambon, a former commander in the separatist Moro National Liberation Front, acknowledged that injustice and bias, not poverty and lack of development, were the main causes of the rebellion in Mindanao.

"We find ourselves foreigners in our own land," he said.

Most important, Macarambon said, the government should beef up its efforts to bring about social understanding, and not enhance the US portrayal of Muslims as terrorists. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

RP's poorest provinces like Africa, richest like Jamaica

From page A1

conflict-ridden," referring to those located in Mindanao.

The HDI measures an area's living standard not by its visible "urbanity"—or the growth of factories or commercial centers in a locality—but by how much the people enjoy "public goods" like health or education, Monsod said.

She gave this explanation when asked why a mountainous province like Benguet, known for its mining and agriculture-based economy, outscored the likes of Pampanga, Cavite, Bulacan and Rizal, which host sprawling urban centers and industrial parks, especially in their capitals.

A province may have a high income level, she said, but may still have low HDI if it doesn't translate into "investments in health or education."

The UN-adopted measure of HDI ranges from 0 to 1, and "the closer to 1, the better," Monsod said.

Using that range, the poorest Philippine province, Sulu, got .30, and the best-performing Benguet scored 0.74.

Areas that score between 0 and .49 are categorized as having "low human development." Those between .50 and .79 qualify as "medium," and those achieving .8 to 1 are in the "high" bracket.

The report said the five lowest ranking provinces were already "comparable to the world's poorest countries located in Africa, namely, Niger, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad."

The highest ranking—Benguet—matches the HDI standing of Jamaica or Turkmenistan, it noted.

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Gonzalez ignores rights body

From page A1

a permit to demonstrate.

"But it does not have the force of law so it can be disregarded," Gonzalez said.

"The CHR has no police or prosecutory power. It can be a guide or a conscience but what the CHR declares is not law," he said.

Gonzalez pointed out that Batas Pambansa No. 880 and the Revised Penal Code gave the government the power to stop violent demonstrations.

Freedom not absolute

"That is the basis of the so-called regulations about rallies. The freedom of assembly, free press, and to air grievances is not absolute," he said.

Gonzalez said he respected the CHR's moral suasion. "We follow UN declarations about human rights," he said.

This is probably the reason former Vice President Teofisto Guingona wants to go to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to file a complaint on the hosing down of a prayer rally on Oct. 14, said Gonzalez.

"But as far as I'm concerned, the pronouncement of the CHR does not have any force," he added.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the CHR stand was just one of many legal positions on the controversial CPR.

GONZALEZ: What CHR says is not law, just a guide or a conscience. PDI PHOTO

Bunye said there were local government executives, like Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and "other luminaries" who had a contrary view and believed that "the right to free speech has its limits."

"Based on existing laws, the head of the local government unit has the power to adopt measures for the protection and welfare of the people," he said.

Presumed valid

He noted that it was a generally accepted principle of law "that all acts of government executives are presumptively valid until set aside by the court."

The Philippine National Police also reacted to the commission.

"Your PNP is just an implementor of laws and orders. As far as the no-rally zone, we leave it to chief executives and the justice department to guide us," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

The PNP spokesperson said ground commanders had been ordered to "seek the guidance" of local governments when faced with differing interpretations of a law that touches on police actions.

Consult mayor

"In the use of places other than a freedom park (for a demonstration), the best thing to do is consult the mayor," he said.

And what if an independent commission says obeying the mayor is illegal? "That's their opinion," Bataoil said.

As part of the executive branch of government, the police are left with little choice but to obey orders from it, he said.

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Dump closes today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL government is set to close today the 14-hectare Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility where the bulk of Metro Manila's trash is dumped.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando expects the metropolis to feel some "discomfort."

The facility gets trash every day from 10 cities and towns in Metro Manila, about one-third of the garbage in the metropolis.

"There would be some problems but we are trying to find solutions," Fernando told the INQUIRER Monday.

Tipping fee issue

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said earlier he would close the facility today after the MMDA failed to act on his request to increase tipping fees for the use of the facility.

Cuerpo wanted the fee raised from P600 to P800 per ton, almost equal to the rates for the controlled dumps in Navotas and Quezon City.

Fernando said, "We will do our best to maintain normal garbage collection even with the (closure of the Montalban Facility)."

He said garbage would probably be brought to Barangay Tanza that serviced Navotas and Manila, and Payatas that serviced Quezon City.

Tarlac dump

He added they would maximize use of another controlled dump in Capas, Tarlac.

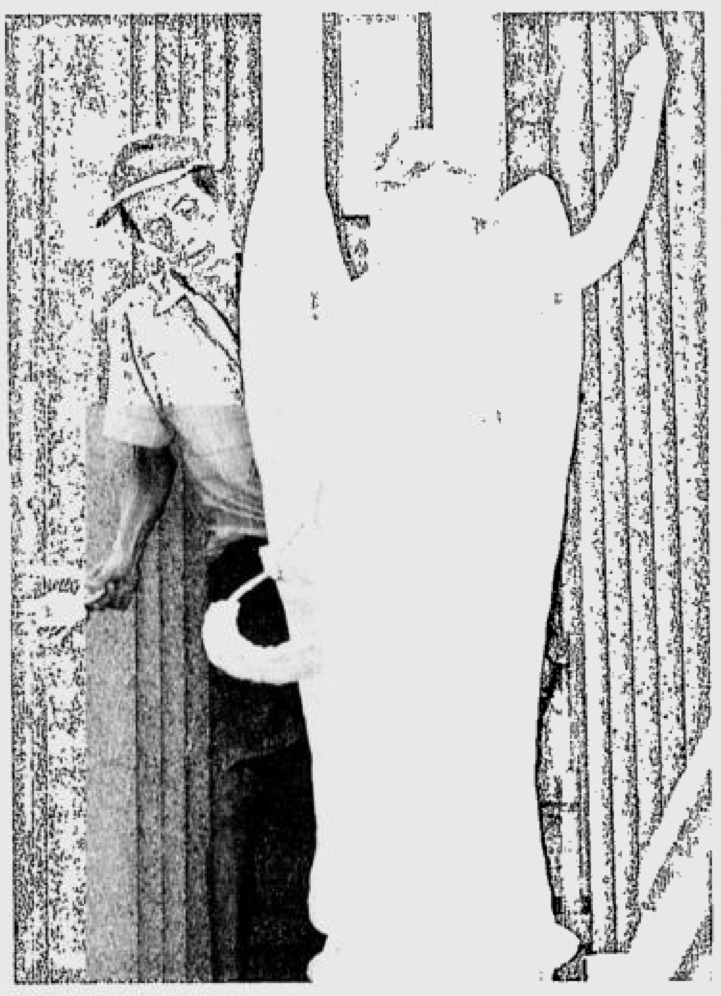
As for Cuerpo's request for fee raise, Fernando said they would study the proposal carefully.

"We also have to look for additional funds," he said.

Cuerpo said the MMDA paid higher fees to Navotas and Quezon City. He also complained of late payments.

The MMDA allegedly owed Rodriguez about P183 million.

Tollway fees to increase Nov. 1



OF REMEMBRANCE REM ZAMORA
A worker puts the finishing touches on a statue marking a grave at the Manila North Cemetery in preparation for All Soul's Day. Preparations for the annual remembrance of deceased loved ones started a week early.

By Clarissa S. Batino

STARTING NOV. 1, MOTORISTS using the different tollways in and around Metro Manila will have to bear higher fees due to the expanded value added tax (VAT).

The North Luzon Expressway (Nlex), the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road, the South Luzon Expressway (Slex), the Skyway and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road, or Star, will start collecting the VAT.

State-owned Philippine National Construction Corp., which has the sole franchise to operate tollways in the country, said it had asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to exempt it from the VAT but it denied the petition.

From Magallanes to Calamba, the new rates for Slex will be P84 for Class 1 from P76, P167 for Class 2 from P151, and P250 for Class 3 from P227.

Class 1 are cars and other light vehicles. Class 2 are light trucks and buses and Class 3 are heavy trucks.

Along the elevated portion or the Skyway stretching from Buendia to Bicutan, the new rates will be P94 for Class 1 from P85, P187 for Class 2 from P170, and P281 for Class 3 from P255.

The new toll along the Coastal Road will be P17 for Class 1 from P15, P33 for Class 2 from P30, and P50 for Class 3 from P45.

For the Star, the new rates will be P16 from P10 for Class 1 vehicles, P37 from P33 for Class 2, and P57 from P50 for Class 3.

As for the Nlex, the new rates will be P223 for Class 1 from P203, P557 for Class 2 from P507 and P669 for Class 3 from P609.

The newly upgraded Nlex, now operated by the Manila North Tollways Corp., had just increased its fees early this year. The highway stretches from Balintawak to Sta. Ines in Pampanga.

Flat rates

Fees from Balintawak to North Bocaue are a flat rate of P46 for Class 1 from P42, P116 for Class 2 from P106 and P139 for Class 3 from P127. This portion of the Nlex is classified as an open highway, which imposes a flat toll fee.

The Skyway and the Coastal Road too, are open highways.

The stretch from South Bocaue to Sta. Ines is a closed highway, just like the Slex. When passing along closed highways, motorists pay a toll for every kilometer traveled.

"Other than taxes on income and real property, no other tax or fee shall be levied on PNCC and its franchise assignee," said the PNCC, citing its pending petition for VAT exemption before the BIR.

"As such, VAT imposition would constitute an impairment of contract and considered unconstitutional," said PNCC spokesperson Charito Chavez in an earlier interview.

A BIR ruling in August 1999, according to Chavez, emphasized that the tax-exempt status of the PNCC and its franchise assignee is covered by the "non-impairment clause of the Constitution."

BIR deputy commissioner Kim Henares, however, said the bureau had long ruled that the PNCC was not exempt from VAT.

"Since 1995, they were not exempt from VAT. We even told them to start issuing receipts as required by the BIR," said Henares. The BIR executive said the internal revenue agency had even penalized the PNCC P1.2 million for its failure to issue receipts.

Meanwhile, fares of the two major mass transport railways in Metro Manila will remain the same, until further notice.

Officials of the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) yesterday said that while the two railway agencies had a request for a P10-increase, it won't be implementing any hikes on Nov. 1 or until Malacañang approved their petition.

LRTA administrator Mel Robles said LRT Lines 1 and 2 won't be passing the impact of the 10 percent expanded value added tax to commuters.

Task force monitors feathered guests

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PARAÑAQUE CITY'S TASK Force Avian Flu has cordoned off the bird sanctuary just off the Coastal Road in Barangay La Huerta near the Fishermen's Wharf. *(See related story on page A1)*

Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe, said this was the first move of the Task Force Avian Flu created to prevent the spread of bird flu as migratory species start arriving.

The task force counted some 3,000 birds of different species in the sanctuary this week.

The task force was divided into five committees: rapid action, surveillance, quarantine, census and information and education committee.

Lacambra, a member of the information and education committee, said talks with the Public Estate Authority (PEA) were ongoing to allow a team from the City Health Office and Department of Agriculture to conduct regular monitoring. The five- to seven-hectare bird haven is on a PEA property.

"PEA owns the place so we can't just barge in the premises," Lacambra said.

Samples of soil and water would be taken from the bird sanctuary to check for contamination, he said.

The team would start the monitoring as soon as it had the appropriate gear and equipment that would cost more than P1 million.

A portion of the city's calamity fund, roughly P5 million, will be used by the task force in performing its work, Bernabe told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He also announced that he would sign an ordinance to formalize the creation of the task force.

METROBRIEFS

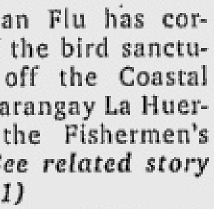
Arroceros park for education, says mayor

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday asserted in court the city school teachers' ownership right over the Arroceros forest park. He said during the hearing on the contested land that the property had been an office compound of the Department of Education even before it was declared a park during the time of then Mayor Alfredo Lim. Atienza added that the city school board bought the property using the Special Education Fund to use the property for educational purposes. The Manila government has been at loggerheads with Winner Foundation, the developer of the park, over the construction of the headquarters of the city school division on the property. *Tina G. Santos*

Mon Ilagan not giving up Sta. Lucia

THE COURTS may have repeatedly stomped on the appeal of the Cainta government questioning the awarding of jurisdiction of the Sta. Lucia mall to Pasig City but Mayor Mon Ilagan is not giving up that easily. The mayor said his administration was still seeking legal remedies. On Aug. 31, the Supreme Court Third Division denied the town's motion for reconsideration for it to continue jurisdiction over the mall—the source of P40 million in revenue for Cainta annually. Pasig City won a tax collection case against Sta. Lucia filed earlier before the regional trial court. The Court of Appeals rejected the motion for reconsideration filed by Cainta. Cainta appealed before the Supreme Court, which denied its petition for review. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Feeding program sees bright future



WHEN classes started in July, 30 kindergarten pupils provided a glimpse of the sad state of nutrition of the country. Today they are a picture of "brilliant minds," said Regina Embalsamado a social worker of the Department of Social Welfare and Development based in Caloocan City. The children from Brilliant Minds Day Care Center in Bagong Silang were the first beneficiaries of the "Ang Galing Mo Bata," a supplemental feeding program of the DSWD and Cebuana Lhuillier Foundation created to reduce malnutrition particularly among children. The nutritional level of the children have remarkably risen, according to Embalsamado who is monitoring the children's progress. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Manila, Malabon, Valenzuela to go dry

STARTING 11 p.m. today areas in Malabon, Valenzuela and Manila will have no water for 22 hours, according to the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. MWSI expects water supply to resume Thursday, Oct. 27, at 9 p.m. Residents may call the Maynilad hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through Smart 7001626 for the affected areas.

National Book Week activities set

IN CELEBRATION of the 71st anniversary of the National Book Week (NBW), the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) in cooperation with the National Library has organized week-long activities for Nov. 24-30 with the theme, "Kultura ng Pagbabasa'y Palaganapin, Aklat at Aklatan Ating Pagyamanin." NBW over-all co-chair Lourdes V. Soriano said among the activities slated are a Funwalk around Rizal Park with a book characters parade, essay writing and story telling contests, book talk, extension services, fellowship luncheon and seminars. For particulars, call Lourdes at 049-8081350, 049-8084383, Lolita Atioza at 831-6688, 861-1756 or Nona Yauder at 525-0356.

Tractor kills 2-year-old

ROSALINA PEÑALOSA'S family had long lived dangerously along the railroad tracks where they were constantly at risk from passing trains.

But death came from another direction.

At dawn yesterday, Peñalosa's 2-year-old grandson, Zandren, was killed by a speeding tractor that plowed through their house on PNR South, Barangay Magallanes, Makati City.

Peñalosa's younger brother, two teenage sons, pregnant daughter and her 1-year-old daughter suffered broken bones and head injuries.

The house was destroyed.

At about 3 a.m., a northbound tractor (TAC-582) on South Super Highway rammed the Peñalosa house.

Peñalosa's 21-year-old daughter Oseisan, seven months pregnant, suffered a broken leg, while her daughter was injured; her son Jeffrey, 16, broke an arm, and son Alvin, 14, had a head injury.

The impact damaged the house of Marciano Merioles, 34, who also sustained head injuries.

The Southern District Traffic Enforcement Group (SDTEG) said the tractor went out of control after bumping an Isuzu elf (WTU 411). District traffic chief, Supt. Rogelio Martinez said, "The owner of the tractor would be liable, and he must surrender the driver and his helper." *Tarra V. Quismundo*

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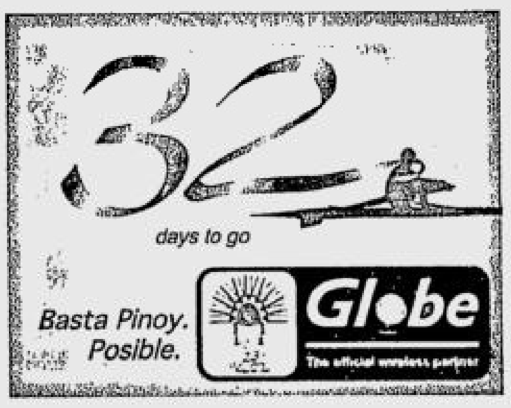
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By Leila B. Salaverria

MALACAÑANG HAS JUNKED an appeal of Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim to set aside the deportation order earlier issued against him by the Bureau of Immigration.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez,

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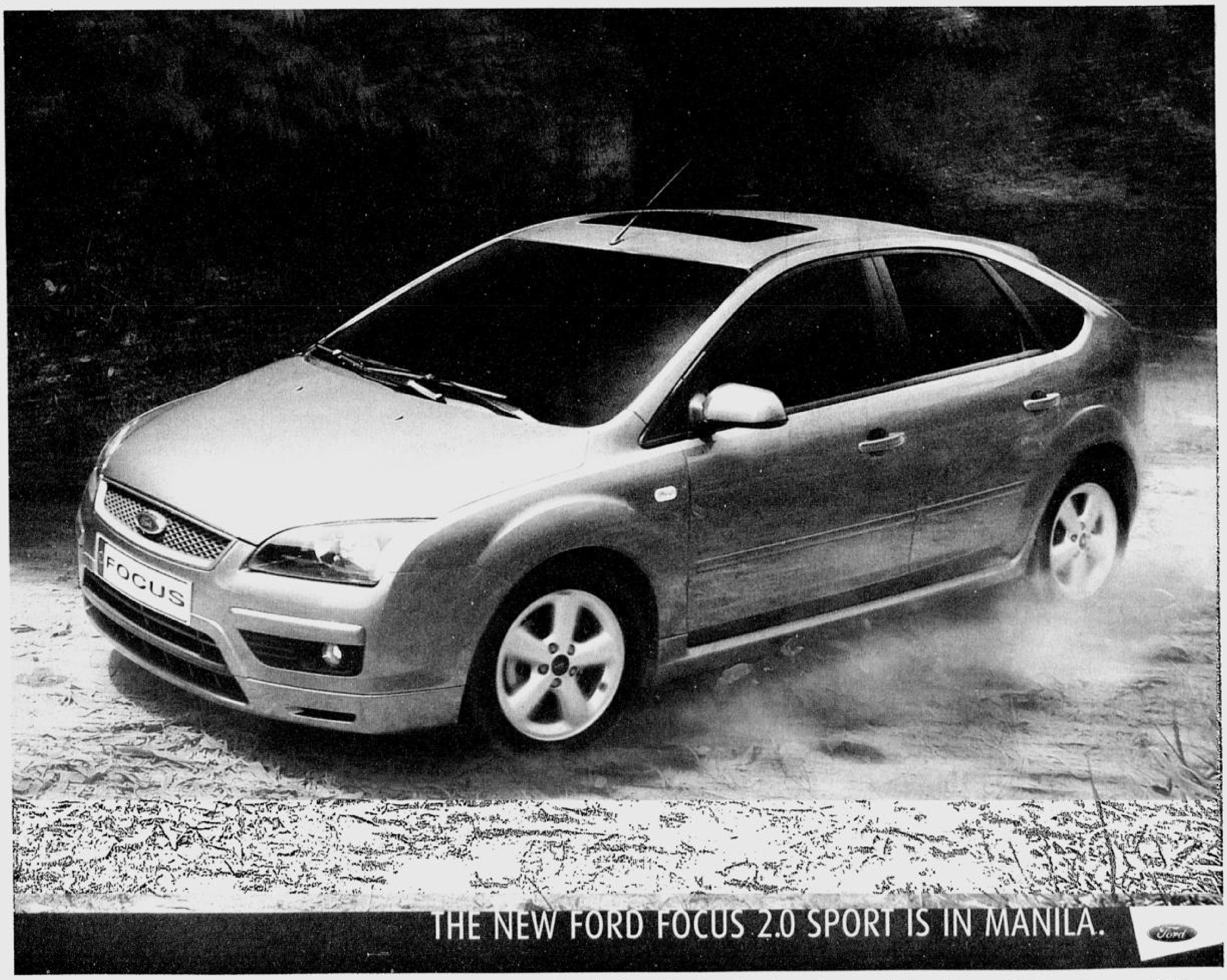
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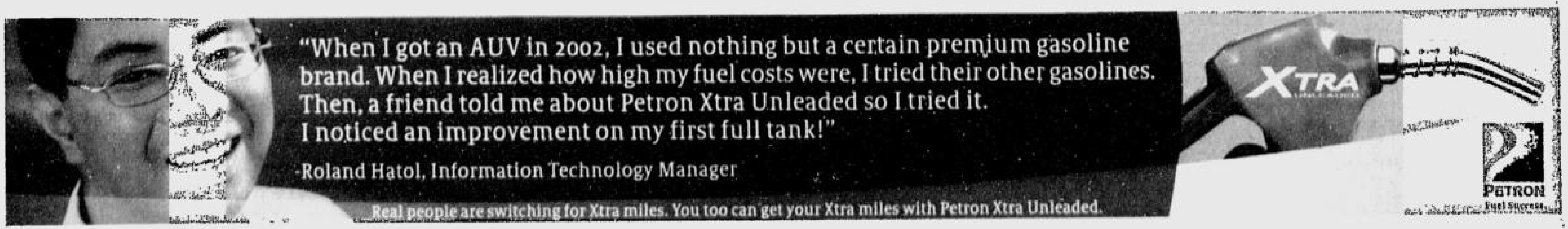
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Tañamor, 2 other Pinoy boxers lose

TAMPERE, FINLAND—TEAM Philippines' Harry Tañamor bowed to Welshman Nasir Mohammad, 22-12, Sunday night and settled for the bronze medal in the 26th Tammer Cup at the Pyyniki Hall here.

What appeared to be a lopsided bout in favor of Tañamor turned out to be the opposite as the Welsh chief of jury Terry Smith made sure of his lone ward's victory by appointing his favored judges.

Joegen Ladon and Mark Jason Melligen also went down in defeat. Ladon bowed to Swede Bashir Hassan, 47-19, while Melligen yielded to Jean Juet of Seychelles by RSC-Outclass, 25 -5, in three rounds.

The twin setbacks left Warlito Parreñas and Joan Tipon to continue the fight for the Filipinos.

No turning back for POC head: SEA Games rites at Rizal Park

THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will not be held anywhere but at the Rizal Park.

Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) president and CEO Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. made the announcement with finality yesterday, saying the prepared program to be held at the Quirino Grandstand, just across the Rizal monument, will push through.

The disclosure put to rest rumors that both the opening and closing ceremonies—to be helmed by noted producer and stage director Maria V. Montelibano—will be moved to the Rizal Memorial Track and Football Stadium.

"We have to push through with the plan, *wala na itong atrasan*(there's no turning back)," Cojuangco, also the president of the local Olympic body, told the Kapihan Forum at Club Intramuros.

Cojuangco expects about 300,000 people to witness the show and cheer the 800-plus Filipino athletes parade alongside their counterparts from 10 other Southeast Asian countries.

The opening ceremony will be held Nov. 27, although action begins as early as Nov. 24.

Coke 'bad boy' hopes to make good this time

OMAR THOMAS HAS A DARK PAST, BUT things are destined to look brighter for Coca-Cola while he's there.

The hot-shooting 6-foot-5 guard alumnus of University of Texas-El Paso, suits up for the Tigers when they battle the Purefoods Chunkee Giants at 4:40 p.m. today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Replacing the inefficient Alex Carcamo, Thomas posted impressive numbers during his senior year at UTEP, leading the school to last year's US NCAA tournament with an average of 20.5 points and 6.7 rebounds a game.

Thomas, who was invited by Seattle in the NBA but got cut from the Supersonics' roster two weeks ago, had a jagged journey throughout his career.

As a teenager in North Carolina, the 23-year-old Thomas was sent to a boot camp for 90 days after committing various misdeeds, ranging from robbery, stealing and beating up little kids, according to a New York Times article on the Internet.

It added that the mercurial Thomas credited the boot camp for making him a better person. Thomas channeled his energy into basketball, from which the Tigers hope to benefit.

The Tigers (1-3) have dropped two straight matches and are just a notch above the San Miguel Beermen at the bottom of the standings.

In contrast, the Chunkee Giants have strung up three victories for a second-running 4-1 record.

STANDINGS	W	L
TNT	4	0
Purefoods	4	1
Alaska	3	2
Red Bull	3	2
Ginebra	2	3
Sta. Lucia	2	3
Air21	2	3
Coca-Cola	1	3
San Miguel	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods Chunkee
7:25 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk N Text

The Tigers' fortunes will certainly change now that the league has allowed Rudy Hatfield and Rafi Reavis to play.

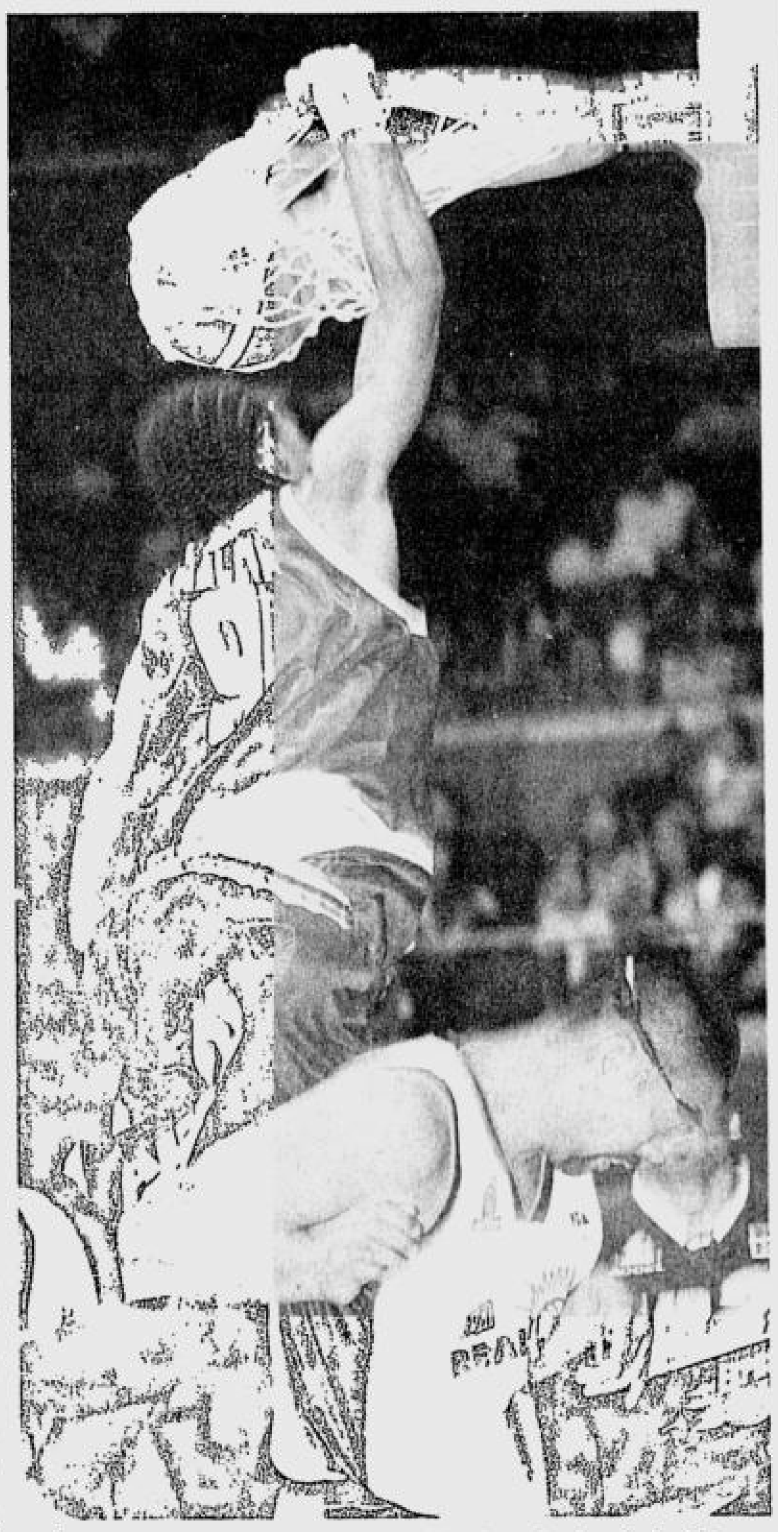
The PBA board of governors has issued a new set of guidelines for foreign-born players, which Hatfield and Reavis could easily satisfy.

Fortunately for the Giants, both players are still in the United States and will most likely show up in Coca-Cola's next game against the Alaska Aces on Friday.

In the other game, Barangay Ginebra are expected to play with renewed confidence against Talk 'N Text after the league's new rules on foreign-born players paved the way for the suspended Eric Menk, back-to-back conference and Finals MVP during the Kings' title runs last season, to play again.

Coach Siot Tanquingcen said the 6-foot-5 Menk will see action today in the Kings' bid to check their up-and-down, 2-3 record.

The Phone Pals (4-0) will have to plot some defenses against Menk to boost their chances of staying unscathed. *June Navarro*



NIÑO Canaleta of Air 21 comes away with a bone-jarring dunk off Santa Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino during their game Sundau. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Palace closes door on BAP sec-gen Lim

From page A25

Jr. yesterday said the bureau received the resolution issued by the Office of the President on Friday.

Following the Palace decision, Fernandez said he would issue the warrant for Lim's arrest after 15 days—since the latter could still file a motion for reconsideration with Malacañang's legal department.

"If he does not file a motion for reconsideration, then the ruling shall become final and executory and we can implement his deportation," Fernandez said in a statement.

Fernandez said the Malacañang resolution dismissed Lim's appeal for lack of merit, while upholding the BI's earlier finding that Lim is a citizen of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

"The evidence adduced by the prosecution, the credibility and authenticity of which have not been disputed, clearly substantially, and convincingly prove that respondent-appellant is a [Taiwanese]," the Palace said.

Among the documents Malacañang cited as proof of Lim's foreign citizenship were his birth certificate, ROC passport, alien certificate of registration, marriage contract and his petitions for naturalization with the Manila regional trial court and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Malacañang also noted that Lim violated the country's immigration law by misrepresenting himself as a Filipino and by using a Philippine passport that he allegedly acquired through fraud, according to the BI.

The resolution likewise pointed out that Lim had acknowledged his Chinese citizenship by twice applying for naturalization.

Malacañang also dismissed the Lim's claim that he is a Filipino citizen based on the Treaty of Paris and other laws passed during the American colonial period that declared as Filipinos all of the country's inhabitants at that time.

The resolution stated that Lim failed to substantiate or submit any evidence that would prove that his ancestors were inhabitants of the Philippines when the said treaty was signed.

LIM: Deported soon?

'I knew it was coming'

BELEAGUERED BAP SECRETARY General Graham Lim knew it was coming.

"I am expecting that decision," Lim told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"As early as last month an emissary of a top sports official told me that if I didn't support the new (basketball) federation, my appeal would be junked by Malacañang because they are "*malakas kay* [have strong ties to] Gloria (President Macapagal Arroyo)."

The next day, however, the same emissary came back and said that they no longer needed his support and "that I'm going to be deported."

He said his lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan will decide whether to file a motion for reconsideration or not.

RP also set to rule pool paralympics?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S NOT FUN HOW FABULOUS DJANGO Bustamante won that last one. The fellow played as though he needed a phone call—to Garci, who else?—in order to salvage victory.

Well, the good news is that, unlike you know who, Django won—without having to resort to something illegal.

Actually, going by the rules of the Department of Health, the final match of the 2005 Philippine Open 9-Ball series should've been called off after it threatened to drag past adult bedtime.

It started a little after 8 p.m Sunday, finished at 12:20 a.m. the following day.

Another reason was the quality of the match itself.

Several atrocious shots were already registering unkindly to the human eye.

* * *

For the record, Django won it 15 to 13 over Dennis Orcollo for the title.

For the record also, the match did not speak well of the state of RP billiards.

Django played with what could be kindly described as an uneven, painful style.

His opponent, on the other hand, performed as though competence and consistency had suddenly turned very scarce on the pool table.

Django bagged the top purse, P500,000, despite having to play crippled.

* * *

Of course, there was enough reason to call Django's winning performance convalescent.

But despite the below-par performance, the guy deserved praise.

He did triumph over a field that included the cream of the crop of RP pool, despite having to compete with a bad elbow.

His legendary break, which would snap like a gunshot during his peak, had in fact softened into a sissy whimper.

Django's poor form was confirmed in a subsequent report that said his bad elbow was to be evaluated by his physician early Monday.

* * *

No use to detail here the shots that should count among the lowliest taken during a major national championship.

But it should also be noted that Django triumphed not because he played superbly.

He just played a notch higher than his main opponent, whose bungle of otherwise easy shots in the homestretch had the broadcasters wincing in disbelief.

In a duel normally decided by golden moves, it was not wrong to say the championship had lacked the necessary jewels.

You know, the great, tantalizing wizardry that had been a trademark of feared Pinoy pool masters abroad.

* * *

Close to the homestretch, shortly before midnight Sunday, my cellphone warbled and registered a complaining message.

Nakakai-inis, sobra tsamba Orcollo kept pocketing on pure luck, the complainant groaned.

However, Django next played dumb when he scratched blind to the right corner pocket in trying a safety shot from the wide-open rail.

Hindi na tsamba scratch ni Django. That fumble was no longer the result of bad luck, the texter was told.

But Orcollo had pocketed at least four times on sheer luck earlier, countered Roger O, whose pool prowess could earn a doctorate in the game.

* * *

You know, it's often said that even the best can't win them all.

But how did Django, doing enough to lose that big one, come out winner?

Definitely because there were more than enough aspirants less competent than him.

No problem with Bata Reyes, because he had been found to be playing—and losing—with poor eyes.

But what about Alex Pagulayan, the hot-hot Canada-based Pinoy world pool pepper?

Gaga Gabica, Ramil Gallego, Rony Alcano?

How dull were they this time out to have allowed a veteran in pain come out on top?

Yes, brilliance was not the name of the game in that series won by someone who should properly be in the hospital.

No need to grieve, though. Fabulous Django should be a shoo-in for the gold in the world pool paralympics.

Capistrano sleepless in London

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

GREEN ARCHERS team manager Terry Capistrano, currently on a business trip in London, has been having sleepless nights lately, according to Los Angeles-based player agent Mike Gonzales who's here in Manila.

According to Mike, Terry is sleepless in London not because of jet lag, but because of the raging La Salle ineligibility issue into which the name of his wife Gina was recently dragged. Like Mike, Green Archers assistant manager Manny Salgado and three others, Gina was tagged as one of the incorporators of AMG Sports International, a company that manages athletes.

Foreseeing the conflict of interest that was likely to arise, Mike said Gina had divested herself of her rights and shares in AMG four months after it was formed.

"How awful that the Capistranos should be implicated in the scandal. Terry is a highly respected businessman who donated P4 million of his own money to the team. He and his wife don't deserve to be dragged into this mess," Mike said.

* * *

Unless the X-rays and further tests prove otherwise, PO3 Jeffrey Flores of the Galas police precinct said mauling victim Tony Genato of New Manila can only file a case of slight physical injuries (and damage to property) against his assailants, the father-and-son Llorentes.

Flores said this was the medical report issued by the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital where Genato was examined right after the incident on Sept. 27. "The victim only suffered bruises, contusions, superficial wounds and an index finger injury. *Yun ang* initial findings, which can be changed later *kung may lalabas na* more serious injuries," Flores explained.

The Llorentes, who were arrested that same day, posted a bail of P2,000 each. The case is now with the fiscal's office, according to PO3 Flores, who added that the basketball Hall-of-Famer was mistaken for a foreigner by his attackers and was even being ordered to go back to his homeland.

* * *

PBL executive director Butch Maniego needs a kidney. Make that two if a second is available.

A diabetic for the last 18 years, Butch was besieged with an assortment of symptoms some weeks ago which he could not explain and which would not go away: loss of appetite, afternoon fever, back pains, severe diarrhea. After undergoing a series of tests, the doctor gave him the grim news that he was suffering from ESRD or End Stage Renal Disease and would have to undergo dialysis three times a week, until he could get a kidney donor.

"It's the same disease that felled the late Jack Tanuan. Let us both serve as a warning. It can happen to anyone. I'm only 43," said Butch who spends P9,000 weekly on dialysis and medication.

"There's a need to make this procedure more affordable to common folks. Most patients die because they can't afford to get thrice-weekly treatments even when they should. I want to help the thousands who have to deal with this illness *na di masyadong kilala*, but is also very deadly. Kidney disease is an underrated killer."

Early last week, Butch checked in at the Chinese General Hospital for vascular surgery. He expected to be discharged Thursday at the latest, but had to stay two days longer due to unforeseen problems.

"I needed to be treated for high uric buildup and low hemoglobin. I can hardly walk now because of extreme leg pains," said Butch, who thanks his team of doctors led by Helen Ong Garcia and husband Nestor, John Lim and Frederick Yap for their care and compassion.

* * *

Vintage czar Bobong Velez, who marks his 60th birthday on Nov. 4, will celebrate the milestone with a big bang at his Mezze Restaurant in Greenbelt Makati on Nov. 7.

Gosh, it's hard to believe that I first met the guy when he was only half his age. As I recall those days, visions of a scrawny fellow with thick, horn-rimmed eyeglasses dressed in *bulaklakin* shirt a la Manila Mayor Lito Atienza come to mind.

Despite the current La Salle controversy, Bobong said the Green Archers-Ateneo Blue Eagles showdown goes on as scheduled next month.

The first such encounter was also staged by Bobong three decades ago, and he credits a trio of scribes for helping make the event a huge success.

"Tessa Jazmines, the late Sim Sotto and you launched my career in sports. Thank you," Bobong said.

You are most welcome, Bobong. Happy birthday. Bobong, enjoy the 20 percent discount on food and medication and the free entrance to any movie theater of your choice.

La Salle findings out today

School officials clam up on eve of crucial announcement

D-DAY FOR DLSU: Br. Armin Luistro, FSC

By Musong R. Castillo

THE RESULTS OF DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY'S inquiry into cases involving the two ineligible players it admitted to have fielded in the last three University Athletic Association of the Philippines seasons will be known today.

University officials have put a lid on the findings of a special fact-finding committee, and have instead promised to tell all about the scandal in a media briefing scheduled at 11 a.m. at the Hyatt hotel on Roxas Boulevard.

Lito Tanjuatco, a member of La Salle's board of trustees and board of regents, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the four-man panel reported its findings to DLSU president Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, before the media blackout was issued.

Luistro met behind closed doors with the panel made up of Tanjuatco, Br. Bobby Casingal, FSC, the head of the La Salle's sports development office; a representative from the registrar's office, and the school's legal counsel.

La Salle put itself in the eye of the storm by admitting last Oct. 12 that it unknowingly fielded two ineligible players in its successful title run last year. To show contrition, school officials offered to return the championship trophy it won at the expense of Far Eastern University.

The well-respected university has not named the two players in question, although reports have identified them as center Mark Benitez and point guard Tim Gatchalian, both former stalwarts of the Jose Rizal University high school in the NCAA.

Both players were summoned by the panel and they gave practically the same testimonies, fingering a former member of the coaching staff and a liaison officer as the people who facilitated their Philippine Educational Placement Test results, which both turned out to be fakes.

La Salle's findings will form a critical part of the UAAP's decision, league officials have said.

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U-19 nat'l football kicks off in Bago today

GAMES TODAY (*Torres Sports Complex*)
7:30 a.m.—Iloilo vs NCR
9:30 a.m.—Davao vs Zamboanga
2 p.m.—Negros Occ vs Masbate

DEFENDING CHAMPION DAVAO TAKES on Zamboanga in the featured match of a triple bill kicking off the PFF-Adidas U-19 National Youth Championship today at the Matias Y. Torres Sports Complex in Bago City.

Davao, which downed host Cebu for the title last year, and Zamboanga square off at 9:30 a.m., following the inaugural tussle between National Capital Region, a selection of top youth players from Metro Manila schools, and Iloilo at 7:30 a.m.

Host Negros Occidental collides with Masbate in the lone afternoon match at 2.

Rizal and Iligan complete the eight-team field, which has been divided into two groups.

Group A includes host and tournament favorite Negros Occidental, Masbate, Davao and Zamboanga, while Group B is made up of NCR, Iloilo, Rizal and Iligan.

Expected guests in the opening ceremonies are Philippine Football Federation (PFF) president Johnny Romualdez, Adidas managing director John Alonte, Gov. Joseph Maranon, Bago City Mayor Janet Torres and Negros Occidental Football Association (Nofa) president, Rep. Carlos Cojuangco.

The event, organized and hosted by the Nofa and the city of Bago, is supported by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron 2Go and the United Nations Children's Fund. PFF competition chair Pablito Araneta is the tournament commissioner.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Given 2. Kate Alessandra 3. Lucky Punch 4. Silent Witness 5. Beat D Ace/Brown Carpet
Race 3—1. Tango With Me 2. Mighty Mare 3. Cosanne 4. Pride of Masbate
Race 4—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Guest House 3. Western Dancer 4. Strong Jays
Race 5—1. Mr. Lucas 2. Refreshing 3. Security Star 4. Smile of the Wind
Race 6—1. King Aljuhn 2. Xangie's Halo 3. Cashbook/Twiggy's Charm 4. Ambot Sa Imo
Race 7—1. Mary Jane Bomb 2. Ilocos Princess 3. Smart Harry 4. Color of the Wind
Race 8—1. She Jinsky 2. Tribeca 3. Scarlet Beauty 4. Mika's Pride 5. Jokes Only 6. Dulce My Love

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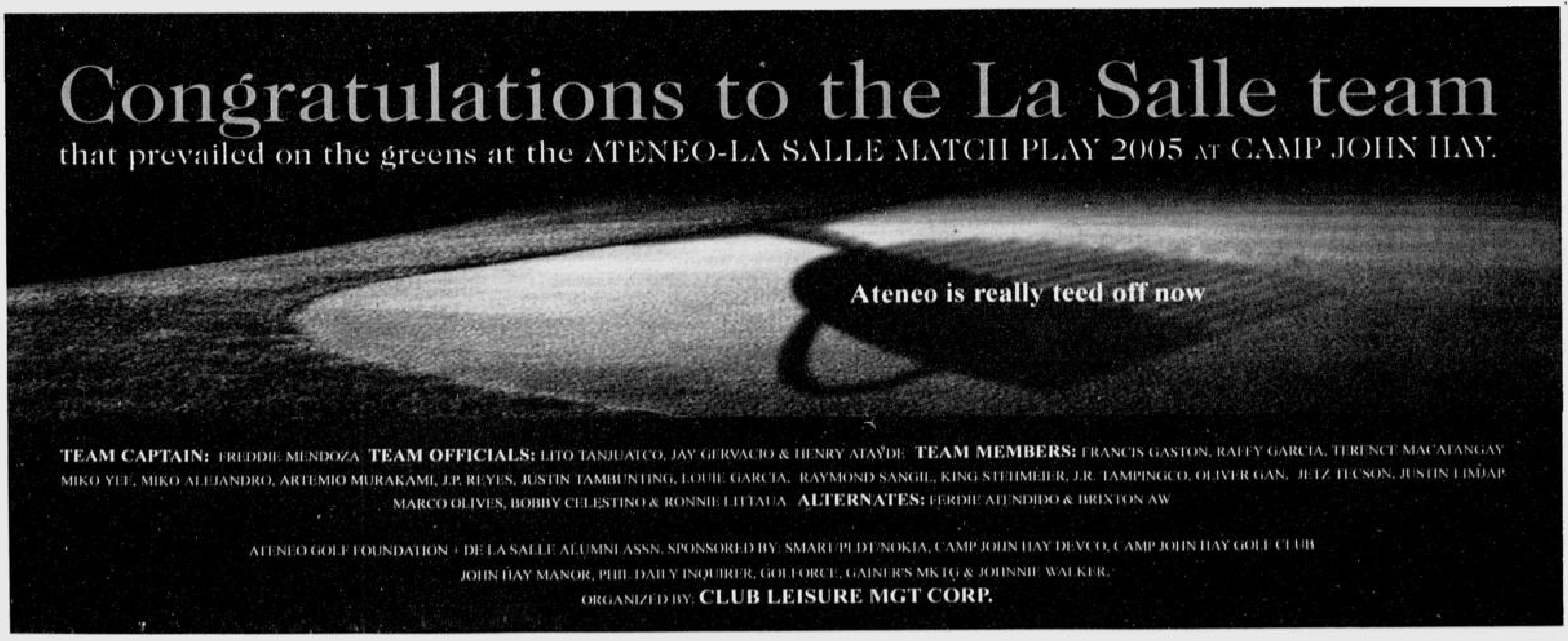

Congratulations to the La Salle team
that prevailed on the greens at the ATENEO-LA SALLE MATCH PLAY 2005 AT CAMP JOHN HAY.

Ateneo is really teed off now

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ATENEO GOLF FOUNDATION + DE LA SALLE ALUMNI ASSN. SPONSORED BY: SMART/PLDT/NOKIA, CAMP JOHN HAY DEVCO, CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB
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Cavite rips Ozamiz, forces sudden death

OZAMIZ CITY—FAR EASTERN INSURANCE-backed Cavite walloped Ozamiz Cotta, 91-73, Tuesday to extend the best-of-three Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship to the limit at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

The winner-take-all game three was being played at presstime last night.

Cavite's backcourt tandem of Jay Sierra and Christian Coronel outplayed Ozamiz's Bob Cozy Ilanga and Orly Alvarado to help the Insurers live another day.

Ilanga, the hero in Ozamiz's 75-73 victory in game one, had an off-night while Sierra and Coronel combined for 12 points.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi started hot led throughout. The Insurers even erected a 19-point advantage, 67-48, midway in the third period and was never seriously threatened.

Marvin Ortiguerra paced Cavite's offense with 13 points. He also collected five rebounds, four steals, two assists and two blocks as he outplayed Christian Nicdao, who struggled with seven points. Ortiguerra and Nicdao are in a tight race for the MVP award.

Billy Bansil had his second straight double-double for Ozamiz.

Curiously, Cavite is the only team that has beaten Ozamiz—actually two times—in its homecourt in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Prime Channel, Bayview park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers were held to nine points in the fourth period and failed to score for five minutes.

Cavite likewise did not buy a basket until Bosyo Diaz struck at the 4:25 mark.

But the insurers quickly recovered to outscore Ozamiz, 13-9.

The scores:

CAVITE 91—Ortiguerra 13, Diaz 13, Booker 12, Bonus 9, Rodriguez 8, Mopera 7, Santiago 7, Sierra 6, Coronel 6, Mamaclay 5, Baluyot 3, Estrada 2.

OZAMIZ 73—Bansil 13, Alberto 12, Aquino 10, Liangco 9, Sampilo 9, Nicdao 7, Cabigkis 4, Delina 2, Butel 2, Alvarado 0, Ilanga 0, Conmigo 0, Libatog 0.

Quarters: 27-21, 52-40, 78-64, 91-73.

Lakeshore Estate hosts triathlon

A 2-IN-1 individual and team triathlon event is scheduled on Nov. 6 at the Lakeshore Estate along the North Luzon Expressway in Mexico, Pampanga.

Presented by Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, the sports tourism event it is expected to attract a big crowd of local and visiting triathletes from nearby provinces and Metro Manila.

Lakeshore Estate boasts a 12-hectare man-made lake surrounded by lush greenery and serene surroundings. Among those expected to compete in the latest resort North of Manila are members of the national triathlon training pool, including national duathlete Sen. Pia Cayetano.

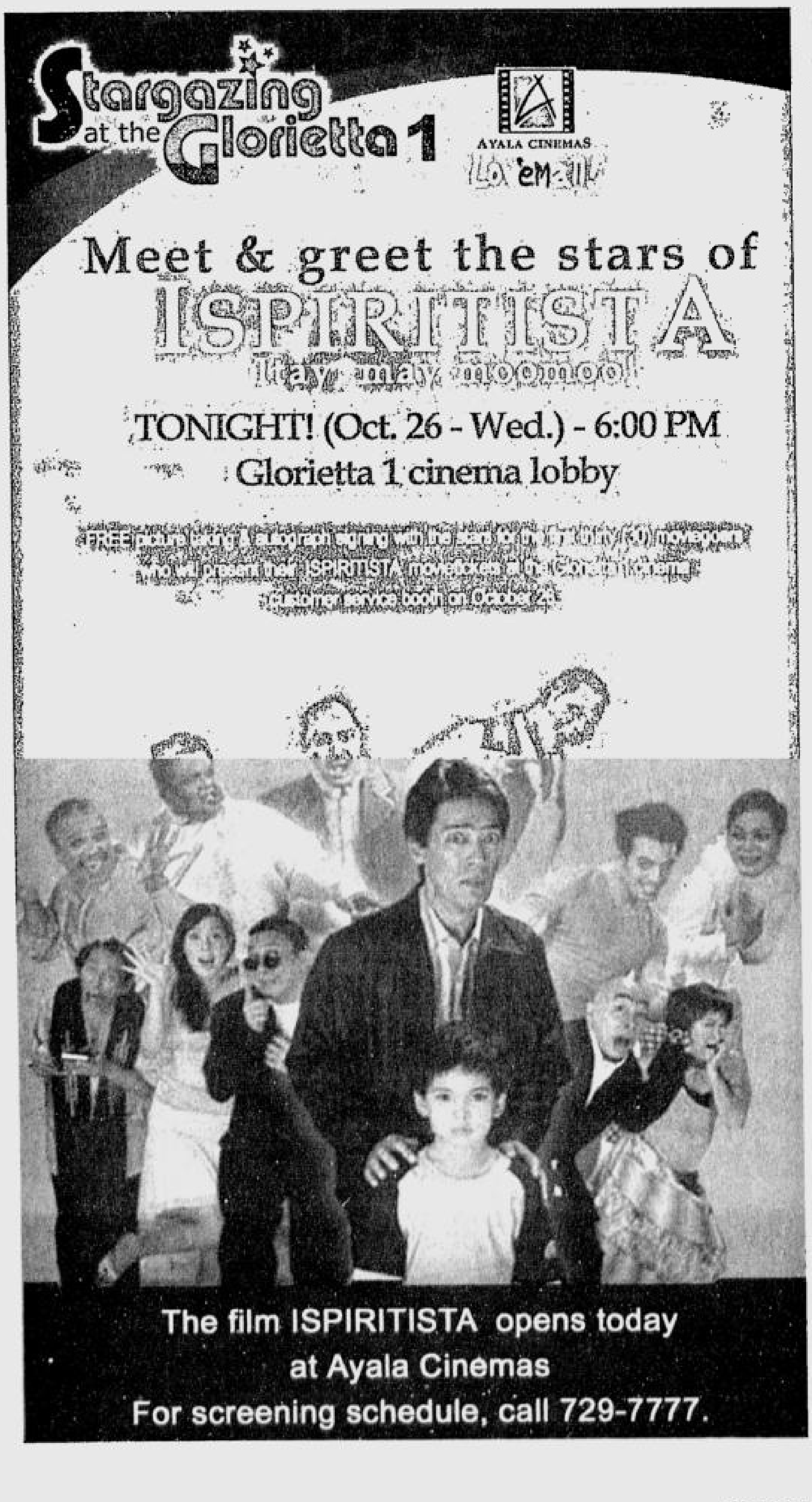
"We certainly welcome this opportunity to show our people the latest real estate resort development project here in Pampanga and hopefully, it will become an annual event in the region," said Lapid.

The event is also supported by Speedo, Batis Asul Caterers,Mother Earth Quality Meats, Hotel Gracelane, Ford Pampanga, Nestle Ice Cream, Pepsi, Gatorade, Absolute Distilled Water, Stronghold Insurance and Nike shoes.

In cooperation with the City of Manila
7th CINEMANILA international film festival SCREENINGS OCTOBER 24

Ayala Greenbelt 1	Hidden Blade 11:30am	Sandalang Bahay 2:00pm
Amihan sa Dilinawan 4:30pm	YOUNG CINEMA NIGHT 7:00pm	Better Luck Tomorrow 9:30pm

Please call the following cinemas for details and schedules:
Gotesco Cinema City 7356901 loc. 358, Isetan Cineworld 7334228,
Ayala Cinema (Greenbelt 1) 7297777
Schedules are subject to change without further notice.
Email: miff@cinemanila.com.ph • Website: www.cinemanila.com.ph



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AYALA CINEMAS
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ISPIRITISTA
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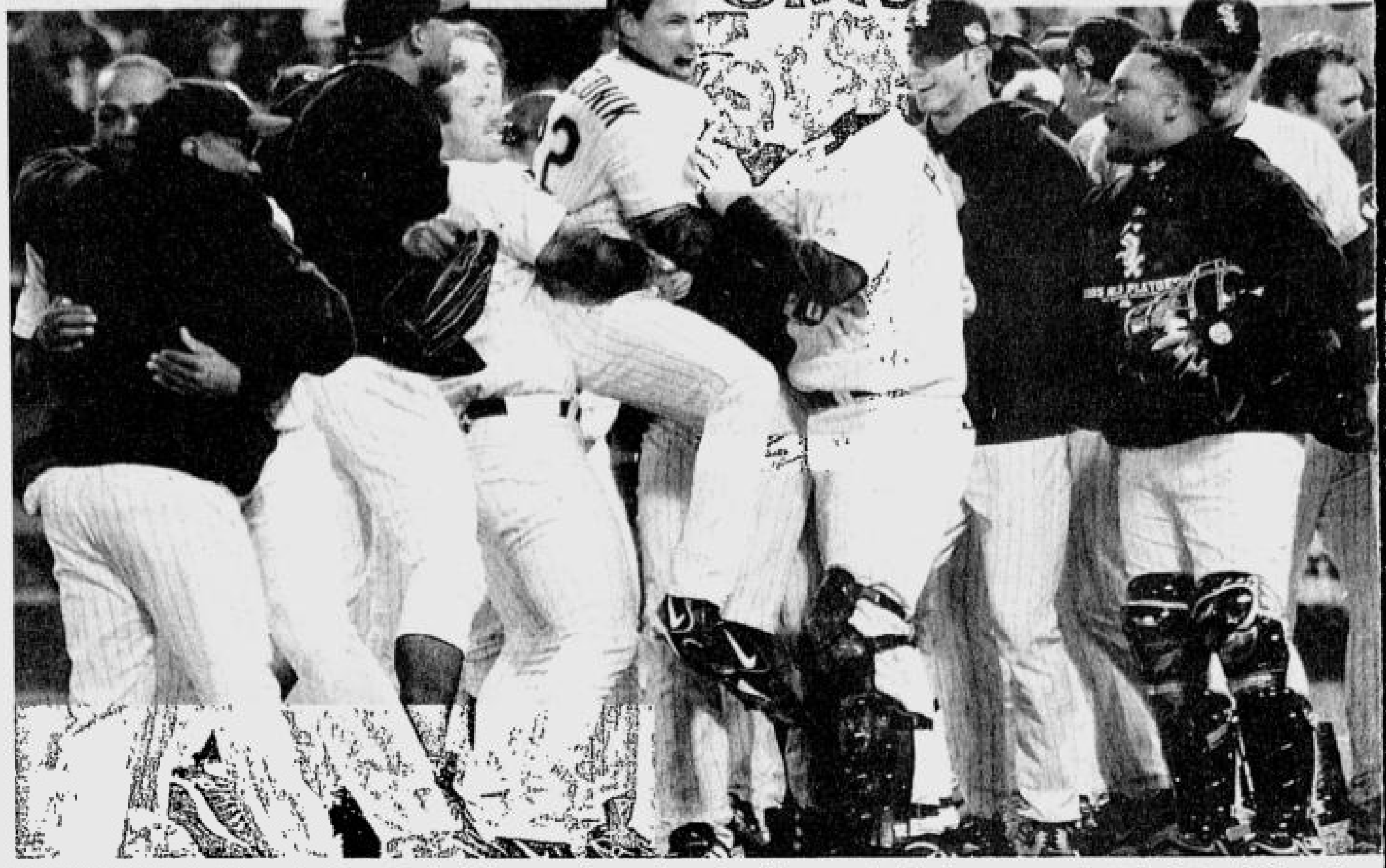
TONIGHT! (Oct. 26 - Wed.) - 6:00 PM
Glorietta 1 cinema lobby
FREE picture taking & autograph signing with the stars [illegible] (30) moviegoers who will present their ISPIRITISTA movie tickets at the [illegible] customer service booth on October [illegible]
The film ISPIRITISTA opens today at Ayala Cinemas
For screening schedule, call 729-7777.



THE WHITE Sox jubilate after Scott Podsednik crosses homeplate after his game-winning home run against the Astros in Game 2. AFP

White Sox relax halfway to 1st crown in 88 years

HOUSTON, TEXAS—HALFway to their first World Series crown since 1917, the Chicago White Sox will try to seize a 3-0 lead over Houston here Tuesday as the Astros attempt a rally in the Major League Baseball final.

The White Sox swept out 2004 champion Boston in the first round, won four in a row after losing the opener to oust Anaheim and could take a major step to capturing a title for long-suffering Chicago fans with a game three triumph.

Chicago seized command in the best-of-seven showdown with two home triumphs, downing star pitchers Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte. Next is Roy Oswalt, a 20-game winner who is 3-0 with a 2.11 earned-run average in the playoffs.

"It would mean a lot," White Sox rightfielder Jermaine Dye said. "We already faced two of the best pitchers in baseball. Our main thing on the road is score early, take the crowd out of it and let our pitchers go out there and pitch."

The Astros went 53-28 at home this season, the best such mark in baseball, but must win two of three here now before a sellout crowd of 41,000 to force the Series back to Chicago next weekend.

"It's a good situation and I feel good with Roy on the mound," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "But he can't do it by himself. If he throws a shutout, we still have to score some runs to win."

For their part, the White Sox have adopted a relaxed atmosphere to their attempt to end a historic drought and avoid a heart-shattering collapse that might test even the most loyal of supporters.

"I like the way we're playing," said White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko, who hit a grand slam home run in game two, only the 18th player to hit a World Series grand slam.

"We're getting the best of what we have. It remains to be seen whether it's enough to be world champions. But I see our team playing the way we played during the regular season.

"We're loose. We're not intimidated by the World Series. We're playing our game and guys are doing what they should."

The retractable roof at the Astros' ballpark will be open if the weather is good as expected, Major League Baseball officials said.

"The players would prefer it be closed," Houston's Jeff Bagwell said. "That being said, we're not going to use the roof as an excuse."

Trailing 2-0 before ever taking their home field is not a daunting deficit for the Astros, who were 15 games under .500 at one stage this year but rallied to win the National League crown.

"We'll get 'em," Bagwell said. "This team has been through a lot and has bounced back."

Teams used designated hitters to bat in place of pitchers at Chicago, following American League rules. But games in Houston will use National League rules where pitchers will bat for themselves.

"Coming back to our park, where it's taking the DH out of the role of American League-style ball and getting the pitcher involved, we can do a few more things than they can do offensively," Oswalt said.

"It would be nice to get the first win, first game at home, so we can kind of switch momentum. We really need to win this, not to go (down) 3-0, kind of build momentum back to our side." *AFP*

Rebap golf set Nov. 11

THE 2005 REBAP Pasig Cup golf tournament has been set on Nov. 11 at the Executive Course of the Antipolo Golf and Country Club with over a hundred golfers expected to participate. "This is the first time we are doing this but we plan to make it an annual tournament," said Nanett Sinco of BreezeWoods Development Corp., co-organizer of the event together with the Alternative Events Group. The real estate company is giving a two-story townhouse unit as a hole-in-one prize. For details, call Nanett Sinco at 881-18097 and 0917-8583238, Nino Sinco 0927-5303231 and Romy Juday, 0917-8940913.

Ex-Inquirer sports ed's son dies

JOAQUIN "Jackie" Iñigo, son of former Philippine Daily Inquirer sports editor and now sports columnist Manolo Iñigo, died Tuesday night at the Sta. Maria Hospital in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, after a lingering illness. He was 38. He is survived by his parents, grandparents, wife Beverlinda Capili, children Robert Jake and Joma, brothers Dennis of Balita, Patrick, Bamba, JV and Manu and sisters Lovely and Coleen. His remains lie at the family residence at Fausta Village, Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bulacan. Interment will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Marilao Memorial Garden after a Mass at the Marilao Parish Church.

Nadal relishes tailing Fe

LONDON—RAFAEL NADAL SHOULD BE ruing his luck.

The Spanish teenager has won more matches in 2005 than any other player on the tour and collected 11 titles, including a grand slam crown.

Yet, thanks to Roger Federer, he is still only the second best player in the world.

Though both players have each won a tour-leading 11 titles and four Master Series events, Federer enjoys a 2,035 points cushion over Nadal in the rankings.

Even if he does not lift his racket again this season, the Swiss master cannot be overtaken in 2005.

While Nadal has an impressive 79-10 win-loss ratio, Federer has set himself apart from his nearest rival with an even better 77-3 record.

Nadal, however, refuses to get downbeat.

"This year is almost impossible to repeat," Nadal said after fighting back from two sets down for the first time in his career to win the Madrid Masters.

"I'm going to start next year in high spirits but without pressure because this has been an incredible year, a year to remember, to keep at home like a picture you hang on the wall."

Nadal will certainly not forget the year in a hurry.

The powerfully built Spaniard has combined his athleticism with aggression and steely determination to mop up eight clay and three ha

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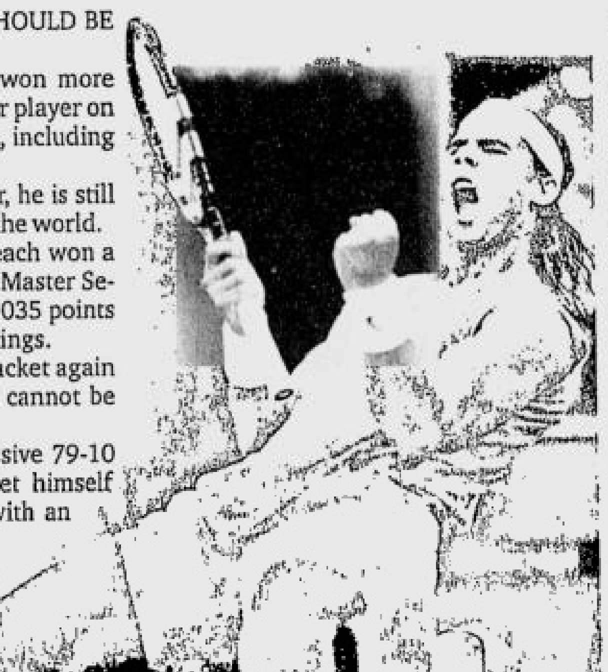
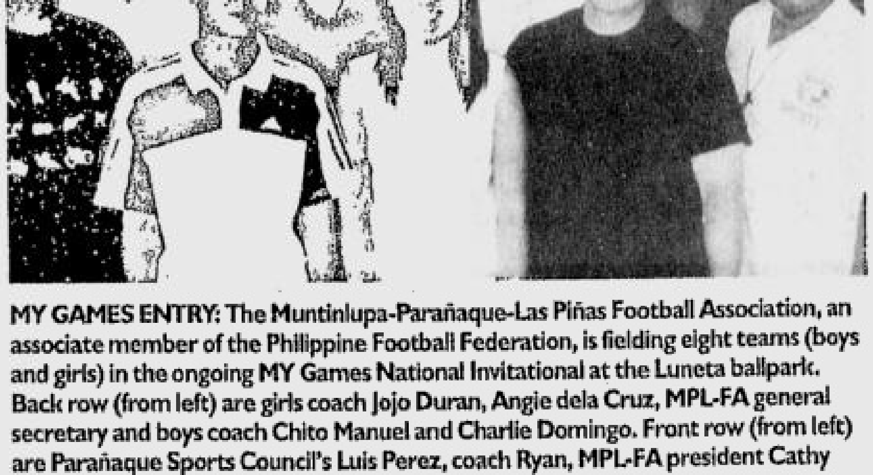


RAFAEL NADAL: This year is almost impossible to repeat. AFP



MY GAMES ENTRY: The Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas Football Association, an associate member of the Philippine Football Federation, is fielding eight teams (boys and girls) in the ongoing MY Games National Invitational at the Luneta ballpark. Back row (from left) are girls coach Jojo Duran, Angie dela Cruz, MPL-FA general secretary and boys coach Chito Manuel and Charlie Domingo. Front row (from left) are Parañaque Sports Council's Luis Perez, coach Ryan, MPL-FA president Cathy Rivilla, Ernie Nierras and Muntinlupa Sports Council's George Tabeta. MPL-FA is being supported by Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe and Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar.

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Nat'l drag race slated

THE DURABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF OLD cars will be put to test in the featured race dubbed as Thunder class showdown this Saturday, Oct. 29, in the kickoff of the four-leg 2005 PCSO National Drag Racing Championship series at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The Thunder class will feature old model cars 1983 and earlier, and will bring back memories of drag racing's glory days when Toyota Corollas, Mazdas, Mitsubishi Lancers and Honda cars dominated the scene.

A cash prize of P15,000 and a trophy will be awarded to the overall Thunder class champion at the end of this series sponsored by PCSO, Petron, Sparco and supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Denso Spark Plugs, Casino Filipino, GV 99.9 FM and DaFest 98.5 FM.

"Those years created the intense passion for race cars, and car racing then was very popular," said BRC Drag racing director Fil Gulfin.

Even now, Toyota Corollas and Honda cars are still lording it over the local drag racing scene. Honda cars, as proven by previous winners Jose Uy and Walter Pazon of Blanche Racing, are hitting the 12-second mark or just fractions of a seconds better than the old Corollas.

For details, call (632) 817-2241, 729-5356 or fax 815-1241.

2-day karate grand prix up

KARATE, ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR FORMS of martial arts in the country in the mid-'70s, takes center stage again with the staging of a major karate competition early next year.

Dubbed "Karate Grand Prix," the two-day competition is expected to bring together more than 5,000 karate enthusiasts from 89 associations from all over the country at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

As much as P500,000 in cash prizes and medals are up for grabs in the competition open to make and female karatekas 18 years old and above.

"This will be the biggest and most prestigious karate championships in the country in a long time," said Karate Grand Prix executive director Col. Carlos Villanueva (ret), who is organizing the event in cooperation with Fox Unlimited Promotions and Marketing Corp. and Pro Karate Merchandising.

"Through this Karate Grand Prix, we expect to bring back the glory days of sports," added Villanueva, who is being assisted by Col. Flor Generoso (ret) as deputy executive director and Rodrigo Espiritu as head of the technical council and vice secretary general.

For inquiries, call Neil at 802-2031 and 0915-9430565 or visit www.karategrandprix.com.

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THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:20 / 2:20 / 4:05 / 5:05 / 6:50 / 9:35
ISPIRITISTA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MY SASSY GIRL 12:20 / 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12.45 / 3:30 / 6.15 / 9:00
DOOM 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
LORD OF WAR 6:50 / 9:30
DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
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❶ ISPIRITISTA 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❷ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40
❸ DOOM 11:20 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
❹ MY SASSY GIRL 12:05 R2 / 2:45 / 5:45 / 8:45
❺ LORD OF WAR 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
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GINEBRA vs TALK N TEXT 7.25 pm
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Megamall
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2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:30FS/12:00MF/02:40 04:50LFS/05:20LMF/07:30END
MEGAMALL
1 DOOM 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:05/03:20/5:35/07:50 09:35LFS/10:00LMF/11:45END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 DOOM 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 TRANSPORTER 2 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 DOOM
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
6 LORD OF WAR
7 DUBAI
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
11 TRANSPORTER 2
12 MY SASSY GIRL
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 MY SASSY GIRL
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 DARK WATER
12 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 LORD OF WAR
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 DOOM
SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DOOM
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 LORD OF WAR
11 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
12 DUBAI
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
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6 LAND OF THE DEAD
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8 LORD OF WAR
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4 DOOM
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 LORD OF WAR
9 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
10 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 DUBAI
6 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 DOOM
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

CENTER stage EVENT CALENDAR
CONCERT
NORTH EDSA BAMBOO November 11, 2005 Cinema 1
NORTH EDSA KYLA November [illegible] 2005 Cinema 1
MEGAMALL SOUTH BORDER November 25, 2005 Cinema 3
NORTH EDSA KITCHIE & BARBIE December 9, 2005 Cinema 1
MEGAMALL MARTIN NIEVERA December 9 & 10, 2005 Cinema 3 & [illegible]
MEGAMALL JOSEMARIE CHAN December 10, 2005 Cinema 3

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DUBAI
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BACOOR
1 LORD OF WAR
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DUBAI
8 DOOM
SM CITY MARILAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 PERFECT CATCH
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 DOOM
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4 DUBAI

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 DUBAI
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY ILOILO
1 DUBAI
2 RESERVED
3 ONE MISSED CALL 2
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE
SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 DUBAI
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 CROW 4
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2
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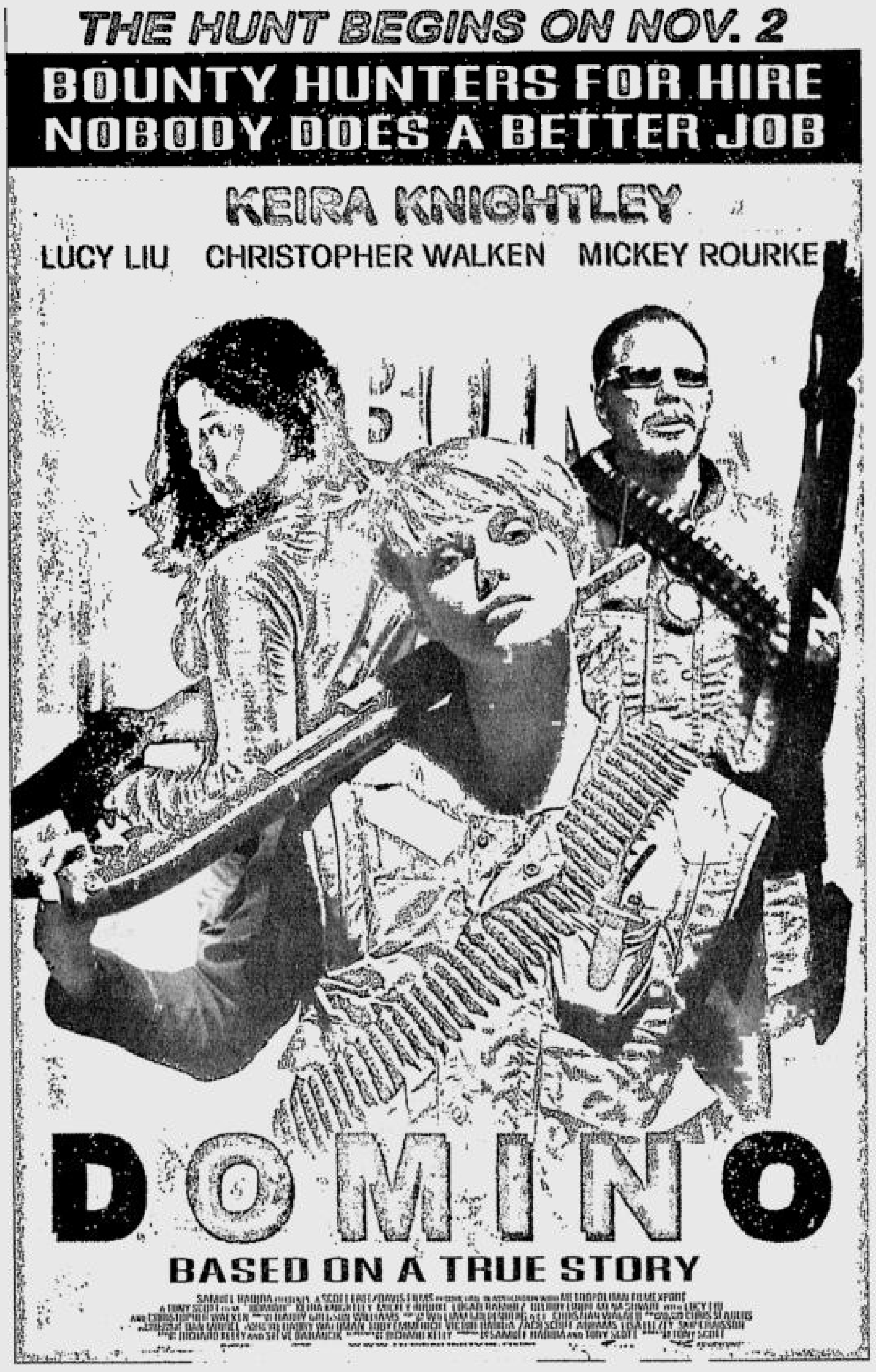
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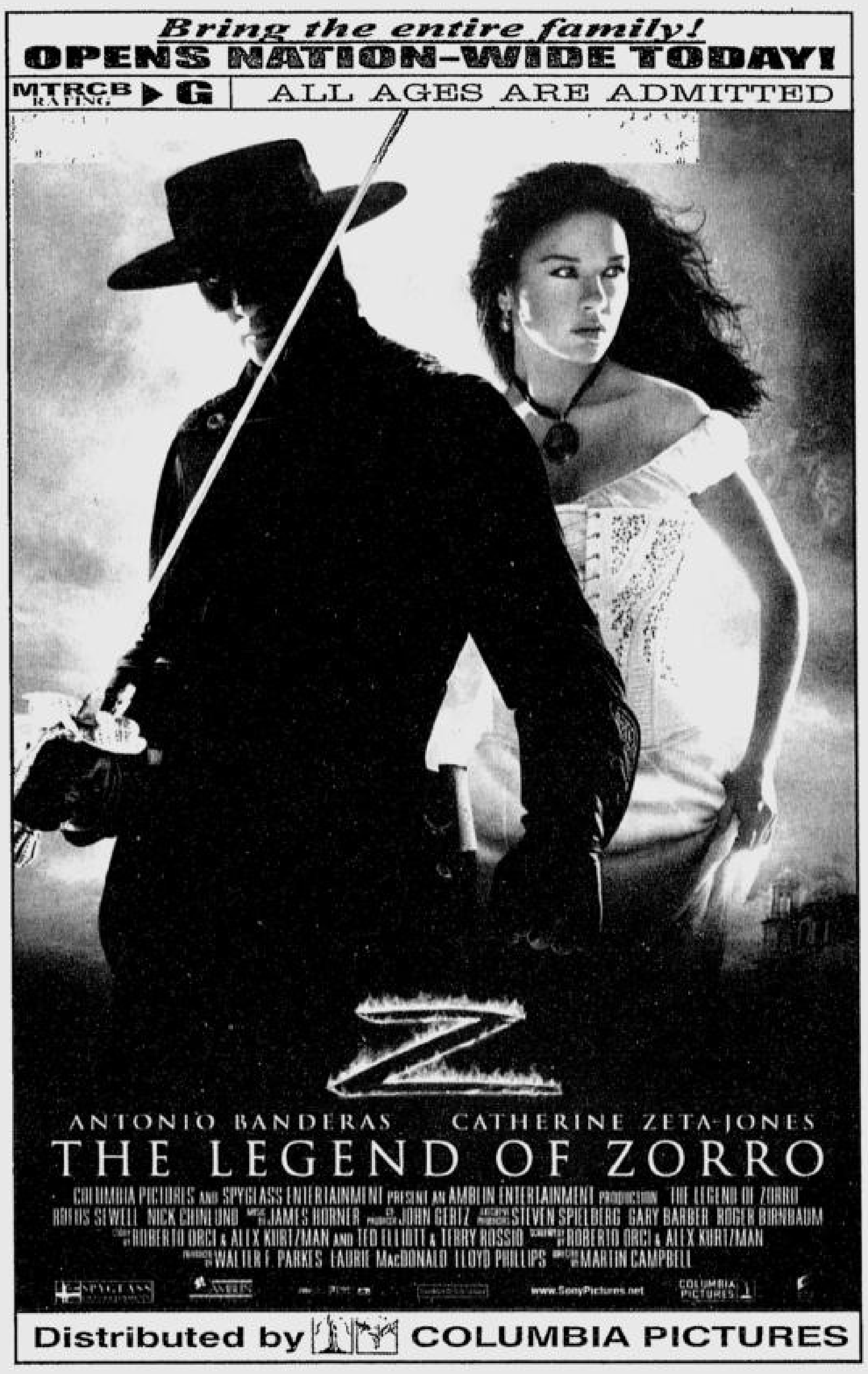
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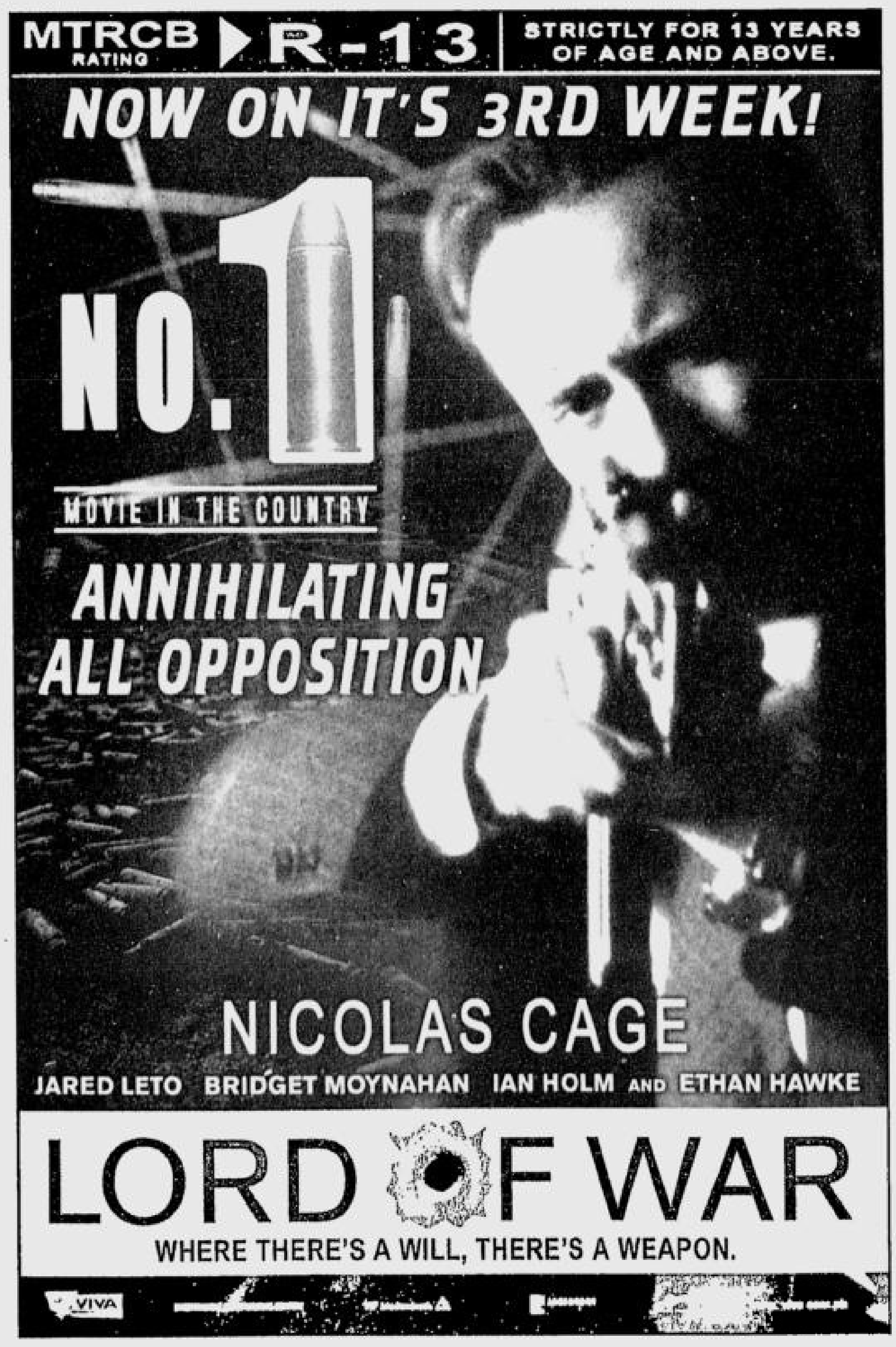
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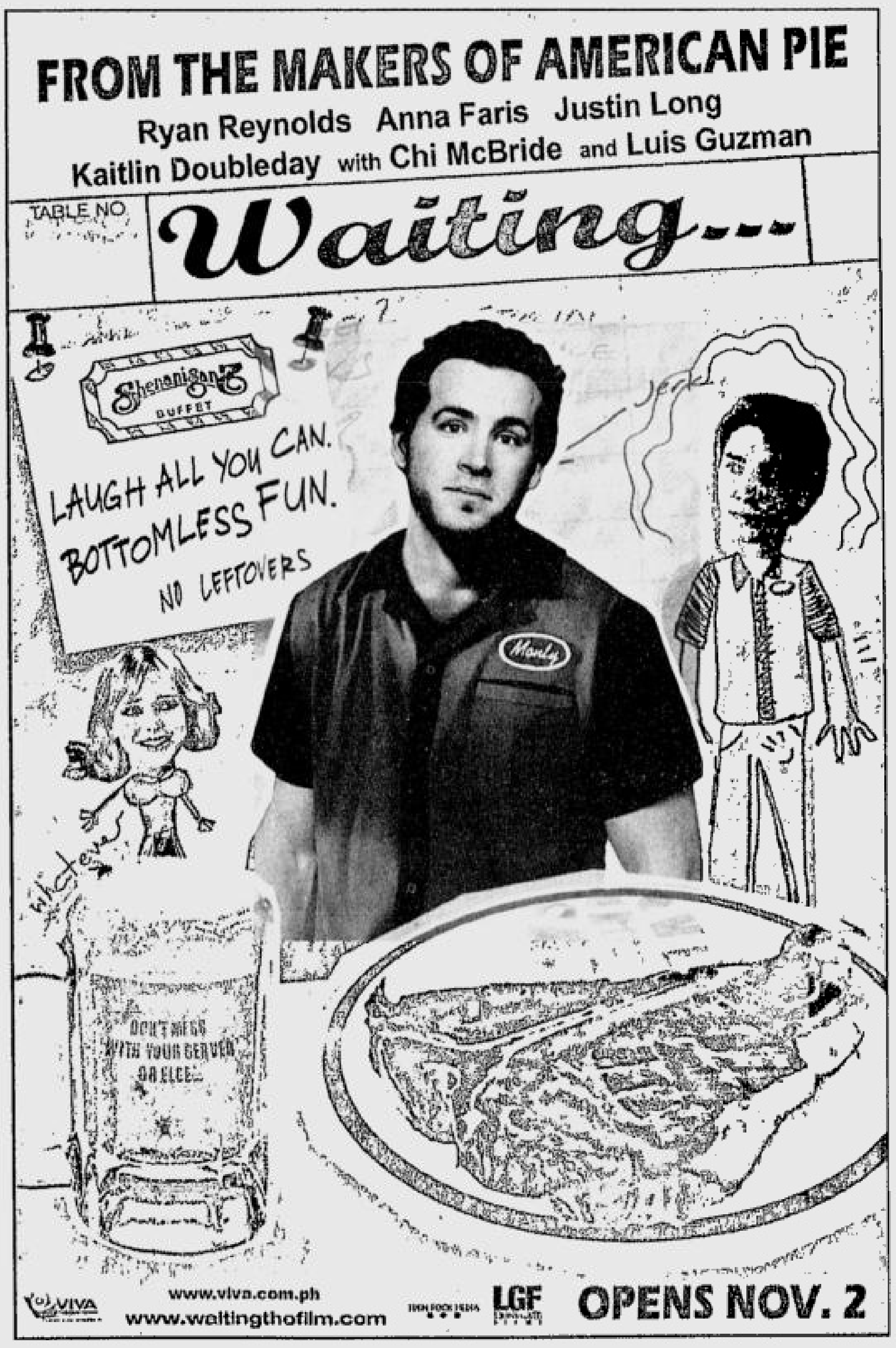
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Alpha cage meet fires off Oct. 28

THE FIRST ALPHA Inter-Company Basketball Tournament of the Association of Laguna Technopark Personnel and Human Resource Administrators gets going on Friday at the Laguna Saikai gym. The month-long event, sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines-Region 4, drew 18 teams from the Laguna Technopark in Biñan and Sta. Rosa, according to tournament director Joseph Cano. BAP president Joey Lina, Fujitsu Ten Phils. human resources manager Renato B. Lao, also president of Alpha, will open the tourney. Irene Añonuevo will lead the invocation, while Lao will deliver the welcome remarks. Rudy Karingal will lead the Oath of Sportsmanship.

Big Event derby today in San Juan

THE GCAP BIG EVENT 8-stag derby blasts off today at the San Juan Coliseum with 92 fights on tap beginning at 2 p.m. and with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as exclusive sponsor. "Participants will be fielding their best gamebirds for this event not only because of the big prize money, but also because of its prestige," said Patrick Antonio, who will team up in the derby with boxing icon Manny Pacquiao. Bebot Roxas, winner of the first Big Event 8-stag derby last Sept. 15, will banner a tough field of big-time cockers. The finals will be held this Saturday. For inquiries, call the SJC offices at 725-5665, 725-5369 or 727-7086 and look for Ariel.

Albano, Doromal share crown

FORMER CONGRESSman Rudy Albano and Bobby Doromal shared top honors in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby last Monday night after their respective entries, RJ Mulawin and JCAP RPCD tallied five wins each, at the Makati Coliseum. The ninth and final leg of PCAP stag derby series is slated this Saturday. In recognition of cockfight enthusiasts' support to derbies at the venue, the coliseum operator, WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. announced that paying patrons on Saturday avail themselves of "buy-one, take-one" ticket promo. "We want to give Makati Coliseum's loyal followers the chance to see who will emerge as PCAP Stagfighter of the Year," said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Corp. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Fastest Win challenge up in Pasay

THE FASTEST WIN One-Cock Ulutan gets going at 11 a.m. today at the Pasay City Cock pit with more than 80 fights on the roster. Event host Lito Roque said a cash pot of P150,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P1,100. Meanwhile, veteran handler Murov Dolorico will host another 4-stag derby this Friday at the same venue. Entries must be submitted tomorrow, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The GCAP Grand Championship 5-stag derby is set on Nov. 4 For inquiries, call 843 1746, 843-1890 or 816-6750.

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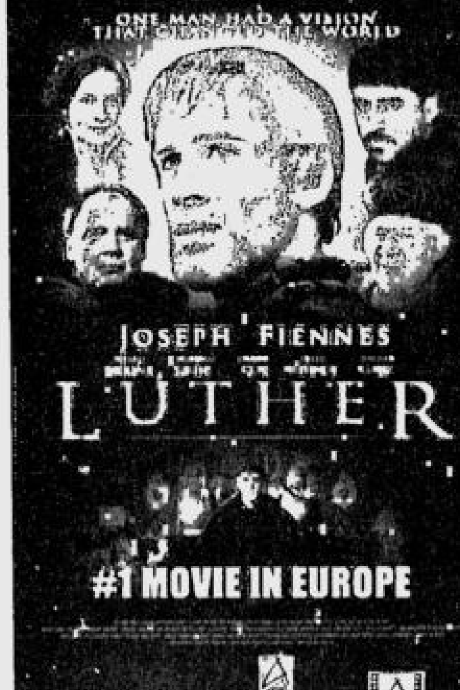
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SPORTS

Boom Boom vs Tanzanian Nov. 19

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION ASIA Pacific bantamweight king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista will defend his title for the second time when he faces Tanzanian Obote "Thunder" Ameme in a blockbuster twinbill on Nov. 19 at the Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Bautista, arguably one of the country's most exciting fighters today, is fresh off a third-round knockout victory over Colombia's Felix Flores Murillo last month in Los Angeles.

The 19-year-old Bautista stakes his 17-0 record with 13 KOs against Ameme (27-9, 22 KOs).

"This is going to be the biggest boxing event in the history of Bohol," said Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Neri Lim, referring to the double championship card which also features Bohol's Czar Amonsot, who will challenge WBO Asia Pacific super-featherweight titlist Victor Mausol of Indonesia in another 12-round affair.

MY GAMES NAT'L

Munti booters snatch 1st gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MUNTINLUPA WEATHERED A FREK RAINstorm and the torrid heat to sweep its matches in girls' football and snatch the first ever gold medal of the Manila Youth Games National Invitational at the Luneta ballpark yesterday.

Striker Frankie Rivilla shone the brightest for Muntinlupa, which whitewashed Laguna (10-0) and Manila (8-0), respectively, amid weather changes that made playing conditions difficult for the 15-under competitors.

Frankie, daughter of national football team manager Katherine Rivilla, scored four goals against Laguna and three against the host squad.

"When it rained, the kids loved it and it showed in the quality of matches," said chief organizer Ali Atienza of the organizing Manila Sports Council. "But when the sun showed up again, that surely made things difficult for them."

It was the first gold disputed in the maiden edition of the Games, which goes full blast this Thursday with the start of the athletics and swimming competitions. Taekwondo will be held on Sunday, the Games' last day.

Laguna bagged the silver medal with Manila settling for the bronze in the football tourney of the Games presented by Globe Telecoms and sponsored by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Philippine Airlines, Super Ferry, Milo, Unilever, Speedo, Red Bull, Land Bank, Isuzu Manila, Intrasports and Concept Movers.

In other events, Joel Castillo struck out four batters and allowed just two hits to lead Tanauan City to a 9-0 rout of Palayan City and a 3-0 slate in the 12-under Little League baseball at the PUP diamond.

Muntinlupa also kept its slate clean by trouncing Antipolo City, 10-0, and Palayan City, 10-3. Muntinlupa is powered by perennial Little League Philippines contender International Little League Association of Manila (Illam).

Mark Bryan Umbres touched off scoring for the Tanauan batters against the Novo Ecijanos with a solo homer in the third inning.

Muntinlupa pitcher Dilan Tantuiko did not yield a single hit to Antipolo and starred in scoring with four RBIs on a triple and a homer.

In girls' softball, Dioni Macasu led Quezon City to a 1-0 win over Manila. The QC batters, composed of University of the Philippines players, hold a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three series with Manila, which is bolstered by Adamson hitters.

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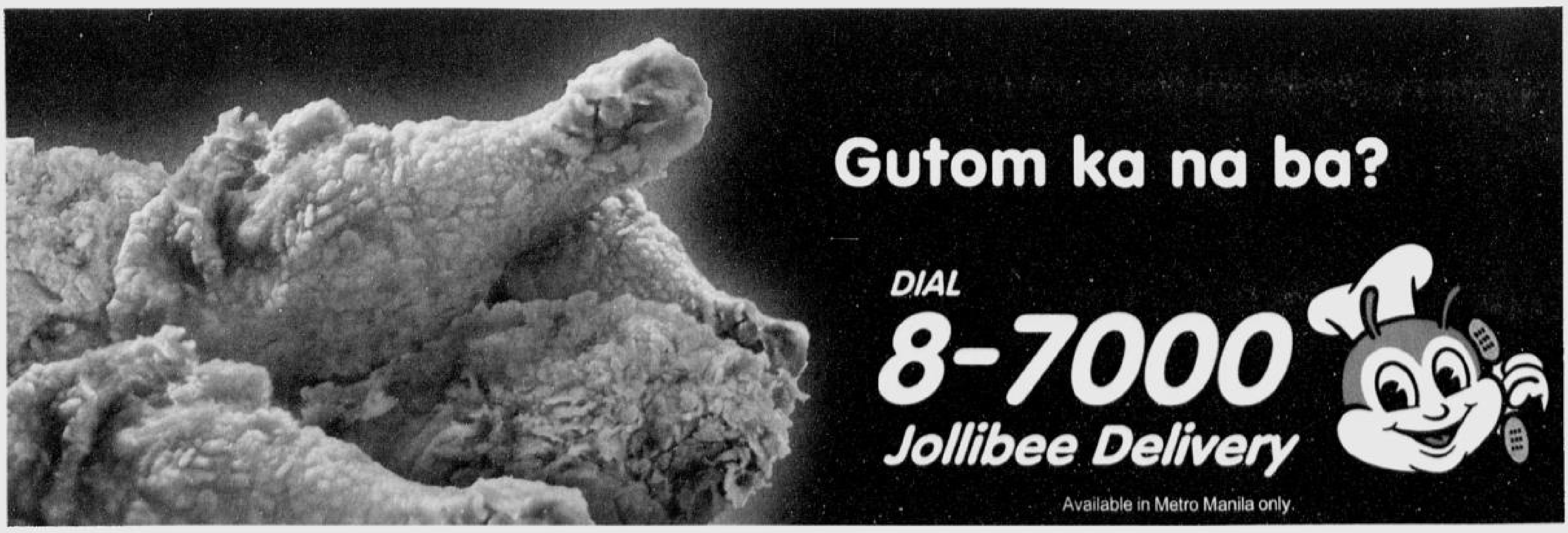
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DE LEON

PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

Celebrating three decades in the biz, Christopher de Leon releases a CD of his movie theme songs

The ballads of Boyet

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS A COMPOSER in "Kung Mangarap"

NOW IS THE RIGHT time," says Christopher "Boyet" de Leon of his newest endeavor, a collection of "classic" theme songs from his past movies.

The CD also celebrates his 30th anniversary in show biz, since making a debut in and winning a Famas Best Actor for Lino Brocka's "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang."

Although he is more known as a Drama King, music is in his blood—dad Gil de Leon and mom Lilia Dizon, as well as sisters Pinky and Lara Melissa, are all singers.

Moreover, his earliest training was in musical theater.

"For my first play, 'Godspell,' Peta (Philippine Educational Theater Association) required me to take voice lessons," Boyet recalls. "I played Jesus in that play. Later on, I co-starred with Juno Henares in 'They're Playing Our Song.' "

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

He headlined concerts with the rest of the Bad Bananas, Edgar Mortiz, Johnny Delgado and the late Jay Ilagan.

He also sang in 1970s movies like "Tisoy" and "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising."

"In 'Kung Mangarap,' I played a songwriter," he recounts. "In 'Kakaba Kaba Ka Ba?' I was a band leader. In 'Tinimbang ang Langit,' I played a composer in love with Kuh Ledesma."

For "Tinimbang ang Langit," Boyet was included in the movie's soundtrack. "I also guested in the soundtracks of my movies with Sharon Cuneta ["Bituing Walang Ningning"] and Regine Velasquez ["Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka"]. I even did a long-playing album with [ex-wife] Nora Aunor in 1975 ["In Love," under Vicor]. But I've never done a solo album."

As early as four years ago, the actor was already toying with the idea of recording a solo album.

Album producer Eloisa Matias recalls: "Last year, Boyet paid for the studio time of the first three songs he recorded—'Sisikat Din Ako' [from "Kakaba"], 'Hanggan' [from "Dekada '70"] and 'Sana'y Ikaw na Nga' [from the movie of the same title, with Vina Morales]."

He didn't assume that just because he's a big star, recording companies would be falling all over themselves to sign him up. Just like any aspiring singer, he cut a demo which was sent to at least three major labels.

"Two hours after we had submitted the demo tape, Eugene Villaluz and Baby Gil of Viva were on the phone," Eloisa says. "They wanted to produce his album."

Soon enough, Boyet inked a three-album deal with Viva Records. "The movie theme songs will have a Book One and Book Two. The third album will consist of inspirational songs," the actor says.

He also had the chance to try out the CD's concept on a recent visit to the US for a series of concerts.

"The audience enjoyed themselves," Boyet says. "While singing the old theme songs, excerpts from the films were flashed onscreen. It was as if they were reminiscing with me."

In a lot of ways, he considers the CD, to be released in December, "a dream come true."

He singles out "Bituing Walang Ningning" as the most challenging.

"It's hard to sing," he explains. "I think only real singers can give it justice. My hats off to Mega [Sharon Cuneta] because she's the original."

Sharon says the late filmmaker Lino Brocka once compared Boyet's voice to Sammy Davis Jr.'s—brimming with soul and emotion.

"You'll hear it in this album," Eloisa says. "In one song, there's a Bono vibe. In another, Martin Nievera because Boyet is basically a balladeer. Very dramatic."

His being an actor is his main strength as a singer, says Eloisa. "The way he delivers the lyrics. The way he stresses each word. He's a perfectionist."

Jeturian film wins CMMA Best Picture

MLR FILMS' "MINSAN PA" WAS CHOSEN Best Picture in this year's Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) on Monday at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City.

The film, directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, won over Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita," produced by Unitel Films.

"Boots Anson-Roa presented the award. She said the CMMA Best Picture is a film about the love of God and family. This was achieved by both films," MLR Films producer, lawyer Joji Alonso told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview Monday night. "We didn't really expect to win over 'Santa Santita.' We're really happy."

"Minsan Pa" tells the story of the struggles of a Cebuano tour guide (Jomari Yllana) and his love for a sightseer (Ara Mina). The film was filmed in Cebuano and shot in Cebu.

The movie was shown at the Tokyo International Film Festival on Oct. 22 and will be among the six Filipino films to be featured at a Filipino film fest in Beijing, China, next month.

Marinel R. Cruz

OPENING TODAY

Ispiritista: Itay, May Moomoo!

Stars Vic Sotto, Cyndi Kurleto, BJ Pajar
Directed by Tony Y. Reyes

The movie marks television stalwart's Tony Tuviera's entry into the movies. Tuviera is the creator of the longest-running noontime television show, "Eat Bulaga," produced by his company, TAPE Inc. It also produced TV hits such as "Heredero," "Agila," "Valiente," "Del Tierro," "Rio del Mar," "Kirara," and most recently, "Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako," starring Camille Pratts.

His new company, APT Films, does special effects which can be seen in the movie. So get ready to be scared with "ghosts" produced by state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge technology. If not, Vic Sotto is always good for laughs. Failing that, Cindy Kurleto is eye candy. Co-produced by Mother Lily Monteverde, "Ispiritista" is expected to be a blockbuster.

My Sassy Girl

Stars Tae-hyun Cha, Ji-hyun Jun
Directed by Jae-young Kwak

Jeremy Heilman posted this June 3, 2002 review at moviemartyr.com whose motto happens to be

OPENING/ A2-4

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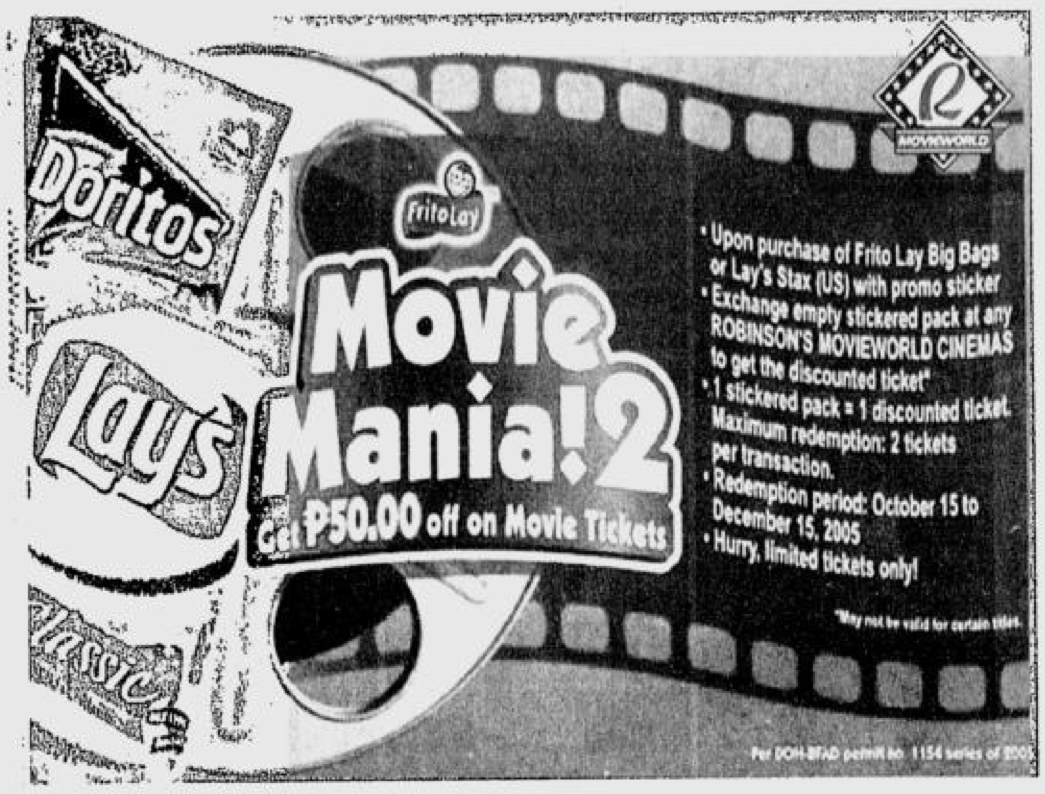

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2

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) DOOM
2 (SDDS) LORD OF WAR
3 (DTS) WALLACE & GROMIT
4 (GOLD DTS) 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
5 (GOLD DOLBY) DOOM
6 (GOLD SDDS) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 DUBAI
9 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
10 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

Blue Wave
MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street,
Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2 (DOLBY) DOOM
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 (DOLBY) DUBAI

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
4 CINE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
5 INTO THE BLUE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3 RED EYE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 DOOM
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 DEUCE BIGALOW-2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) PERFECT CATCH
2 DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 (DTS EX) LORD OF WAR
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) LORD OF WAR
4 (DTS) PERFECT CATCH

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
4 (DTS) BLADE OF THE ROSE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) DOOM
2 (DOLBY) LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 (DOLBY) LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 (DOLBY) 40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DUBAI
2 (DTS) LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) INTO THE BLUE
4 DEUCE BIGALOW-2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146

1 DUBAI
2 (DOLBY) INTO THE BLUE
3 (DTS) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI
4 (DTS) INTO THE BLUE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MEDALLION
2 ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
3 MASAHISTA
4 (DTS) DISKARTE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BLADE OF THE ROSE
2 LIGAYA
3 (DTS) INTO THE BLUE
4 DUBAI
5 LAND OF THE DEAD

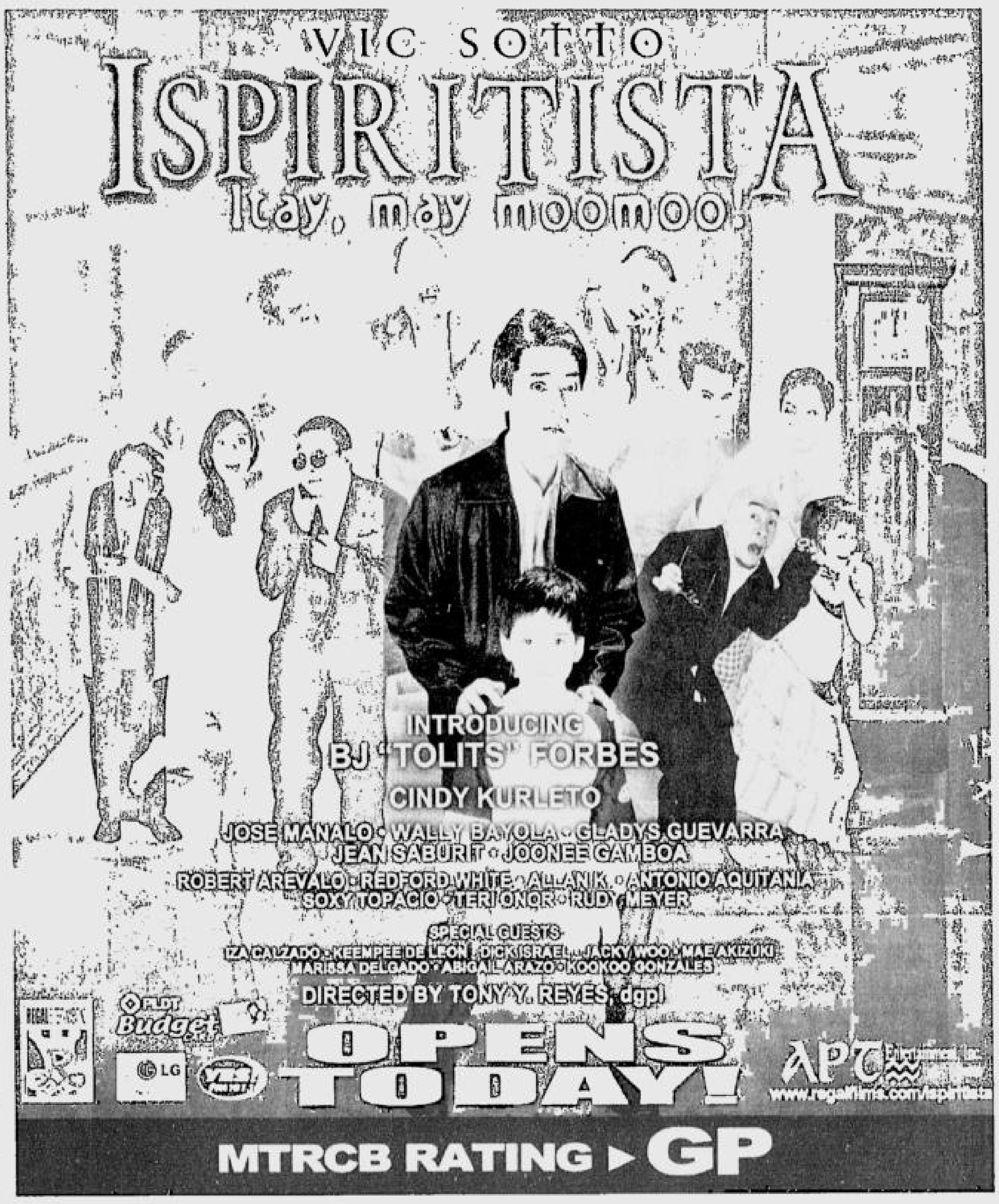
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LORD OF WAR
2 THE TRANSPORTER-2
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 DUBAI

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 NAGDADALAGA
2 SOUND OF THUNDER

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



INTRODUCING
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ROBERT AREVALO • REDFORD WHITE • ALLAN K. • ANTONIO AQUITANIA
SOXY TOPACIO • TERI ONOR • RUDY MEYER
SPECIAL GUESTS
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DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES, dgpi

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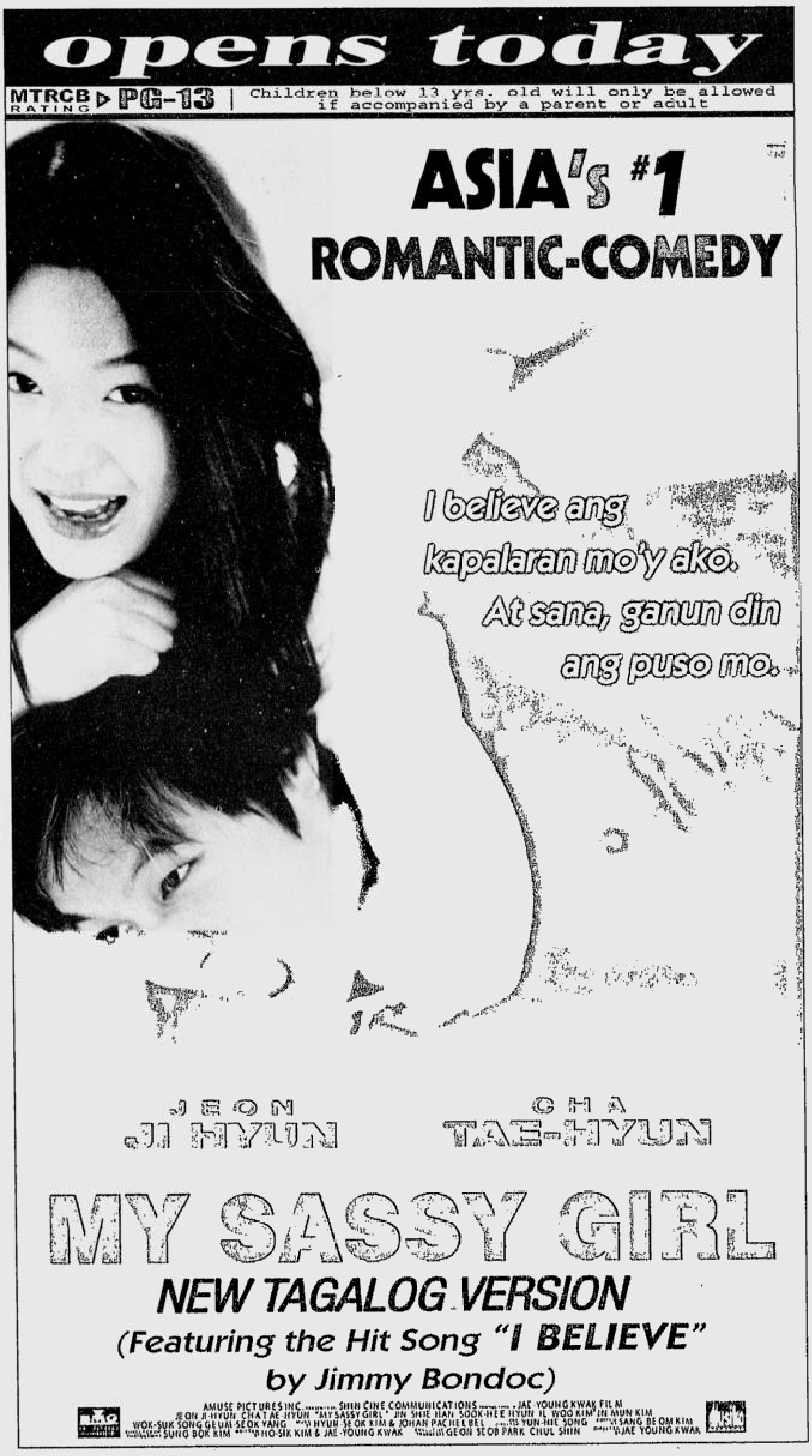
MTRCB RATING ▸ GP


I believe ang
kapalaran mo'y ako.
At sana, ganun din
ang puso mo.

opens today

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ASIA's #1
ROMANTIC-COMEDY

JEON JI HYUN
CHA TAE-HYUN

MY SASSY GIRL
NEW TAGALOG VERSION
(Featuring the Hit Song "I BELIEVE"
by Jimmy Bondoc)

Three fanciful films click with viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER MANY DECADES OF TRAditional animation, Walt Disney has heeded the technological call of the times and has come up with its first fully computer-animated feature film. Its landmark production, "Chicken Little," is a delightful comedy-adventure that gives a sophisticated and satirical twist to the popular fable.

Fact is, Disney has been a pioneer in using computers in short film and TV animation since the '80s. But the studio has further shored up its advantage with more technical innovations, giving its latest production a new look and feel that audiences have never seen before.

What's "Chicken Little" about? It is one year after the title character caused havoc in his hometown by proclaiming that the sky was falling after being conked on the head with what appeared to be an acorn. Down but not out, the plucky chicken joins the local baseball team, hoping to revive his reputation and win the respect of his father, Buck Cluck.

When he leads the town to an upset victory, he becomes a hero. But no sooner has he redeemed himself that he is again hit on the head—and, this time, the sky is *really* falling! But he doesn't want to tell anybody, for fear of once again being labeled crazy.

So, he enlists the help of his closest friends—Runt of the Litter, Ugly Duckling, and Fish Out of Water—to save the day without sending the town into a new panic.

The film's cast of voice actors includes **Garry Marshall** as Buck Cluck, **Joan Cusack** as Ugly Duckling, **Steve Zahn** as Runt of the Litter, **Dan Molina** as Fish Out of Water, and **Zach Braff** as Chicken Little. **Mark Dindal** directs.

Meanwhile, the live-action fantasy, "The Adventures of Shark Boy and Lava Girl in 3D" comes from the digital vision of director **Robert Rodriguez** and the vivid imagination of his seven-year-old son, **Racer.**

In the film, 10-year-old Max is taunted by bullies and escapes into the book of dreams that he's created. Its fantasy world is set on the faraway Planet Drool, where Shark Boy and Lava Girl are superheroes.

When the planet's existence is imperiled by the evil Mr. Electric, the young superheroes recruit Max to help them save his dreamland.

From the beginning, Rodriguez knew that his movie story needed to be told in three dimension (3D). To make the viewing experience even more special, Columbia Pictures has made the unprecedented move of providing 3D glasses to the movie's viewers—absolutely free!

Finally, the first "Wallace & Gromit" feature film has shot to No. 1 at the North American box office. The movie is about intrepid inventor Wallace and his faithful dog Gromit. In the film, the title characters use a complex vacuum system and other inventions to protect prized vegetables from a rabbit problem in their village.

Kim Flores

YOUNG soprano **Kim Flores** is thrilled to have been tapped to play the young **Regine Velasquez** in the Songbird's "Reflections" concert from Nov. 4 to Dec. 10 at the Aliw Theater. Other guest performers include **Ai-Ai de las Alas** and **Jonalyn Viray. Raul Mitra** is the musical director. For inquiries about Kim, call Backroom at 9283121.

K Brosas

SINGER-COMEDIENNE **K Brosas** will hold her first major concert "K Bro... Alive" at Music Museum on Nov. 18. The musical-comedy show features **Erik Santos, Keanna Reeves, Kyla, Rufa Mae Quinto.** The Boxers and Whiplash. The concert is written and directed by **Floy Quintos.** Call 7216726.

CHICKEN LITTLE

Parokya ni Edgar

"MANG Jose,", the new single of Parokya ni Edgar, is a certified hit—and its music video is also becoming a viewers' favorite. It is directed by **Ace Enriquez**, and features the Parokya band, **Angel Aquino** and **Mark Gil.**

'El Filibusterismo'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation is staging "El Filibusterismo" on Nov. 8 at Rizal Park, Nov. 10-13 at AFP Theater, Nov. 18-19 at St. Scholastica's Manila, Nov. 25-26 at RFC Cinema in Las Piñas, and Dec. 1 at SM Southmall. **Soxy Tapacio** directs a cast that includes **Wowie de Guzman, Roeder Camañag, Soliman Cruz** and **Roence Santos.** Call 8995745.

'Meeting with Vajrasattua'

U-THEATER presents the spectacular production, "Meeting with Vajrasattua," a compleat theatrical presentation that combines music, drums, dance, martial arts and other elements. The unique show blends arts, culture and religion to achieve a deep spiritual dimension. Performances are on Nov. 2 and 3 at the CCP Main Theater. Call 5234909.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

WALLACE AND GROMIT GP 12:30,2:30,4:30,6:30,8:30	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL GP 1:25,3:35,5:45.8:00	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40	LORD OF WAR R13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45	DOOM R13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

thisWEEK LIVE @ the activity area
SM
kyla
Oct. 28 • Friday • 11am
southborder
Oct. 28 • Friday • 5pm
anne curtis
Oct. 29 • Saturday • 11am
kitchie nadal
Oct. 29 • Saturday • 5pm
sandara park & tolits
Oct. 30 • Sunday • 11am
spongecola
Oct. 30 • Sunday • 5pm

Free 3-D Glasses!
2ND 3-D FUN WEEK!
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SPY KIDS'
PERFECT ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
A GREAT FILM FOR KIDS AND 3-D MAKES IT EVEN MORE FUN!

THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL 3-D
SMALLER HEROES. JUST AS SUPER.

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Sneak Previews on Oct.31 & Nov.1!
OPENS NOVEMBER 9
MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

JODIE FOSTER
At 37,000 Feet
Her Daughter Has Disappeared.
FLIGHTPLAN

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

It's going to be one spooky Halloween Gathering
Enchanted Kingdom

Treat your whole family to Enchanted Kingdom's Spooky Halloween Gathering! Come to Enchanted Kingdom in your full Halloween costume on October 30, 2005, register and join the first ever Enchanted Kingdom Halloween Costume Competition to get in FOR FREE*! Over Php 100,000 in prizes await those with the most creative and spooky costume designs. So come and celebrate a Halloween like no other only at Enchanted Kingdom!

Absolutely anyone can join the costume competition and win!!! Yes, adults and kids alike!
Grand Prize: Php 5,000 cash, Php 3,000 Rustan's Supermarket Gift Certificate, Php 2,000 Enchanted Kingdom Wizard Money!
1st Prize: Php 3,000 cash, Php 2,000 Rustan's Supermarket Gift Certificate, Enchanted Kingdom Premium Items
2nd Prize: Php 2,000 cash, Php 1,000 Rustan's Supermarket Gift Certificate, Enchanted Kingdom Premium Items
3rd Prize: Php 1,000 cash, Php 500 Rustan's Supermarket Gift Certificate, Enchanted Kingdom Premium Items

Be crowned Master of Disguise (adult male winner), Queen of the Damned (adult female winner), Little Nicky (kids award), Frankenstein & Frankenstein's Bride Award (couple winner), or Adam's Family Group Award and win fabulous prizes. For more details on early registration, contact 8127232 or 8671006.

We're open 'til midnight on October 29 & 30, 2005 so come and feel the magic at Enchanted Kingdom!

October Schedule:
Oct. 31 & Nov. 1/10am - 10pm

Park Schedule:
Wed-Fri/10am-7pm
Sat-Sun/10am-10pm

*Carousel Special Ticket for guests above 48 inches (Add P350 to upgrade to E.K. Day Pass)
Child Day Pass for guests 36-47 inches

Fireworks display at 9pm every Saturday and Sunday.

Spettacolo Pirotecnico
Watch the celebrated Spettacolo Pirotecnico, a spectacular display of magical lights and fireworks, on Oct. 30 & 31at 9 pm.

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OPENING TODAY

From page A2-1

suffering for your cinema: "Divided into two disparate parts, 'My Sassy Girl' starts out as a seemingly typical gross-out comedy, but improves greatly as it proceeds. Based on a real life anonymous online diary, this South Korean movie tells the story of Kyun-woo (Tae-hyun Cha), an average, aimless college student who gets shoved into a relationship with a bossy, overbearing and unnamed girl (Ji-hyun Jun)... Most of the film's early scenes mine laughs as they place Kyun-woo in embarrassing situations and the film resembles great slapstick comedies.... 'My Sassy Girl' is slated to be remade by Dreamworks. Here's to hoping the producers of the American version realize what it is about [the movie] that made it the top-grossing comedy ever in South Korea."

The Legend of Zorro

Stars: Antonio Banderas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Adrian Alonso
Directed by Martin Campbell

Stella Papamichael posted this Oct. 19 review on BBCi-Films: "With sword in hand and tongue firmly in cheek, Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones return for some serious swashbuckling in 'The Legend of Zorro.' Seven years have passed since they first joined forces in 'The Mask of Zorro,' but director Martin Campbell sticks closely to that formula, blending outrageous stunts with romantic intrigue and wink-wink humor. Although it's utterly unsurprising at every turn, the cocktail of pheromones and adrenaline still makes for an intoxicating adventure. Relations have soured between Alejandro (Banderas) and Elena (Zeta-Jones), but the chemistry between the leads is still zingy fresh. Adrian Alonso livens the mix as their young son, showing great comic instincts and heightening the tension between them. He idolizes local hero Zorro as a prodigious swordsman and berates his pacifist father unaware that they are the same man. Unfortunately Rufus Sewell just looks bored as the archetypal villain and potential stepdad who threatens to blow California off the map following its induction into the USA.

Beauty news, 'Penis Talks' and 'Masahista' blues

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST ASKING: HEARD THAT BB. PILIPINAS-Universe **Gionna Cabrera** auditioned to be a newscaster on RPN-9. She landed the job, but is it true that Ms **Stella Araneta** didn't allow her to join the station's news and public affairs team? Perhaps she feels that Gionna ought to be in the news instead of delivering it. Besides, Gionna's beauty might distract viewers from focusing on the headlines.

Could it be true that **Angelica Panganiban** and **JB** of "Pinoy Big Brother" are getting too close for comfort? What about **Carlo Aquino**? Heard that Angelica and Carlo have reconciled. There are talks that Angelica's mom is not too keen about her daughter's romance with Carlo. Wonder if she approves of JB? And lest we forget, what about her love team with **Jason Abalos**? Love is meant to be free for all—a sort of "General Patronage" activity. But what happens when it turns into a "Parental Guidance" affair?

A reader from Abu Dhabi (**Ronald Mostajo**) e-mailed me to express the disappointment of Pinoys at the premiere of "Dubai" there. He wrote: "We waited many hours to see **Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto** and **John Lloyd Cruz** in person but we didn't even get a glimpse of them. Security was too tight and their heads were all bowed. They didn't even wave at us. *Kulang na lang itago sila sa mga tao!*" Knowing Aga, he would have loved to mingle with the crowd but security measures are beyond his control. I'm sure the beauty of the film more than compensated for that unfortunate incident. Was security just as strict when "Dubai" premiered in London, Vienna and other parts of the world? Aga definitely turned his fans' world upside down with his awesome performance in the movie.

Due to the success of "Pinoy Big Brother," ABS-CBN is launching "PBB Scoops" starting Oct. 30 (after "ASAP Fanatics"). Will the scoops elicit many "Oops!" from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB)?

The wacky "Bubble Gang" cast is off to the US for a series of shows. How will Pinoy humor fare in the land of bubble gum?

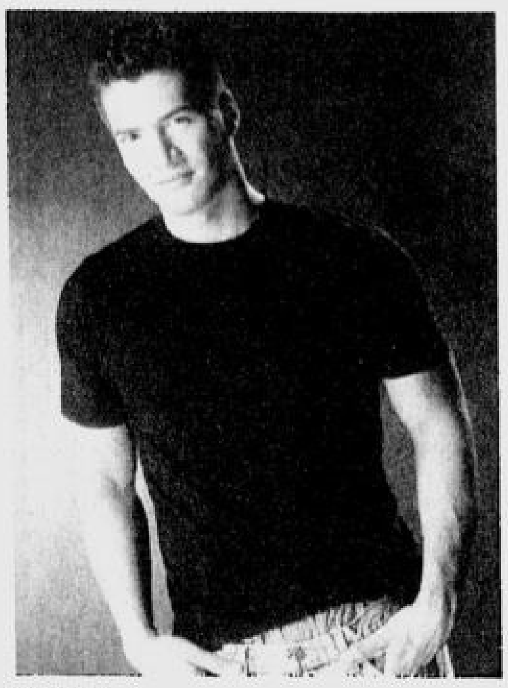
Penis Talks 2

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed watching "All About Men 2... Penis Talks Reloaded." It roused and aroused me, I almost forgot that my chastity belt has been securely fastened for some time now. The play goes beyond "deep throat" and the dictionary meaning of the male organ. It's a daring peep into a man's private life and his privates. The night I watched, **Jay Manalo** gave a sterling performance as an OFW wrongly accused of murder. He moved the audience to tears. **Ricci Chan** surpassed expectations of those who saw him in PT1. **Joy Viado** was a perfect foil to Chan's comic performance.

Polo Ravales was a delight in "Juan T____." He's the gorgeous one in the cast, reminding me of a young **Gabby Concepcion. RJ Rosales** showed his thespian talents acclaimed worldwide. **Roselle Nava** mesmerized everyone with her mature acting and angelic singing. As promised, Jay, Polo, **Reggie Curley, Rich Vergara** and RJ were first seen onstage in their skimpiest essentials. There was also a bonus kissing scene of **Paolo Paraiso** and **Luis Alandy**, Reggie and RJ, **Christian Vasquez** and Polo. You can still catch the daring show on Oct. 28 at the Music Museum. I guarantee it's a visual aphrodisiac!

Troy rocks Ratsky's

BEST known for his hunky good looks, **Troy Montero** has proven that he's not just a pretty face. He proved his versatility when he released an album early this year. He recently took Japan by storm. Catch Troy at Ratsky's Morato on Oct. 29. Joining him is rock band Bluetooth.



TROY Montero

My "Belo Medical Group" family has announced that there is an Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatology symposium from Oct. 25-27 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. When all else fails, vanity prevails!

'Masahista'

CATCH 'Masahista' while it's still in cinemas. It stars **Coco Martin, Jaclyn Jose, Alan Paule** and directed by **Brillante Mendoza**. It's all about a *masahista* named Iliac whose daily ritual is disrupted with the sudden death of his father. The movie effectively uses contrasting atmospheres to dramatize and compare two representations of duty—the ritual owed the dead and the service owed to a client who has come to trade money for sexual intimacy.

For feedback e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com

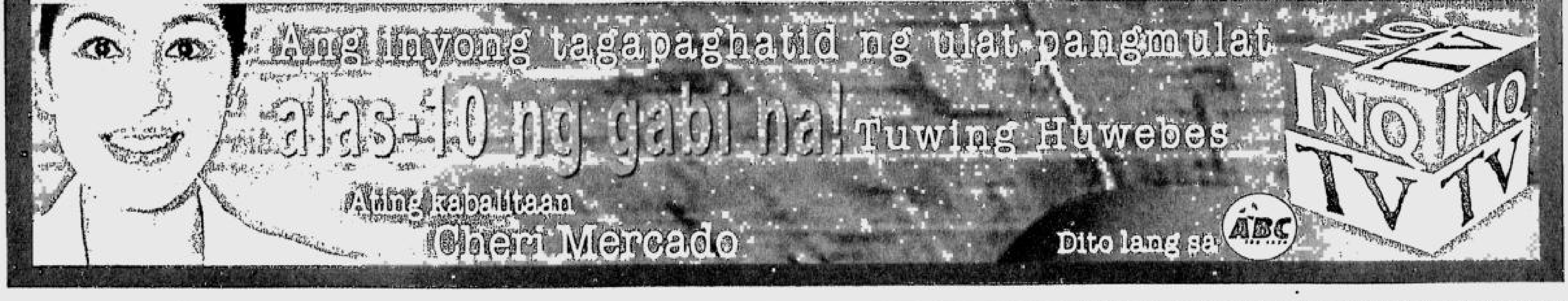
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Ting ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Kamen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Rockstar: Inxs		Dokyu	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TESDA		Global Family Series		Legacy Of Hero		Navy Medicine At War	Global Family Series	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	Pop Up	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05										Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports			ATP '05 Gerry Weber Open Finals						Swatch FIVB World Women's Final Athens			Sports Desk	Sports Desk	US 9-Ball Open 2005				NBA TV Daily	Sports Desk
Sports Plus						Subway 500 Highlights		US Open 2005											
Cinemax				Three Way (4:15 PM)			High School High (5:45 PM)				The Skulls III (7:20 PM)			Beethoven			Cradle 2 The Grave		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Agency II		Almost Salinas			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Digital Cool		Wild Science		Warrior Women With Lucy Lawless Year 2002		Living With Wolves				Wild Science		Deadliest Season In The World		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		Last Chance Journeys		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe San Francisco Earthquake/ National Geographic Specials Unlocking Da Vinci's Code		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron/Rocko/ As Told By Ginger/Viewers Choice			1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?		
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	Britney Spears		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Commited	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO				Born In East L.A (3:50 PM)		Surviving Picasso					Gothika			Mary Reilly				You Got Served (10:50PM)	
Star Movies		Visitors (3:15 PM)			Shakespeare In Love (4:45 PM)					The Day After Tomorrow				Rambo First Blood 2			Powder (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Kastilyong Buhangin				Paano Kung Wala Ka Na				Sugo Ng Tondo			Persona	Ang Tanging Ina (9:15 PM)				Aswang	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factory C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.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Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
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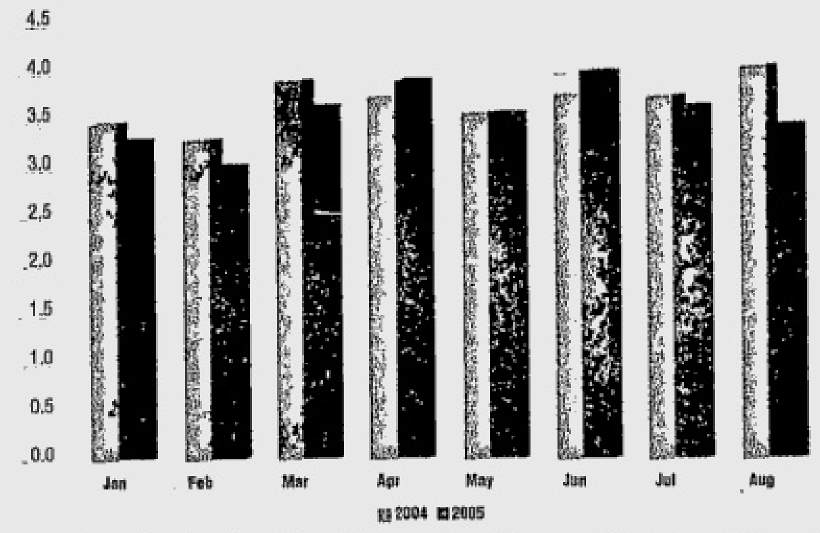
in the Philippines

Rise in crude prices bloats August import bill

TOTAL IMPORTS
January to August 2004 & 2005, in billion US$



THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS ROSE BY 10.1 percent year-on-year in August, but economists said the growth was less encouraging as it was brought largely by higher oil prices rather than a pick-up in demand.

The National Statistics Office reported yesterday that imports stood at $4.06 billion in August, higher than the $3.43 billion recorded during the same month last year.

"Part of the increase was due to the impact of higher oil prices. The price of petroleum was 35 percent higher than that of last year," said Victor Abola, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The NSO report showed that import spending for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials grew by 55.2 percent to $665.75 million over the previous year's level due to the increase in oil prices.

On the other hand, value of electronics imports, mainly raw materials for finished electronics products, registered a 4.5-percent drop from last year's. Electronics imports were valued at $1.75 billion, lower than the $2.27 registered in August 2004.

With electronics being the country's major export product, the export sector's chances of hitting the full-year growth target of 8 percent has dimmed.

"I think exports will grow between 5 and 6 percent," Abola said in an interview.

The National Economic and Development Authority likewise said the growth target for exports was now unlikely to be reached.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda director for policy and planning, said the agency now expected exports growth of 6 percent for the full year given the sluggish global demand for electronics.

Abola, however, said that prices of

RISE/ B7

Peso surges to 4-month high

Remittances, yen rebound boost local currency

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY SURGED to a four-month high of 55.26:$1, lifted by remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the strengthening of the Japanese yen.

The local currency gained 20 centavos at the Philippine Dealing System from Monday's close of 55.46:$1 to end at its strongest level since June 10.

PESO/ B7

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

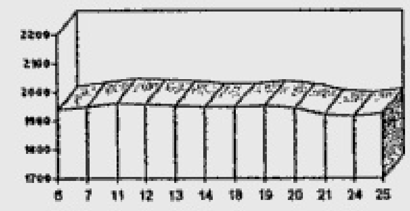
₱55.26 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 25, 2005

¥115.60 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 25, 2005

GOLD: $466.50-467.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 25, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Stocks rise on Wall St. rally

SHARE prices closed 0.52 percent higher yesterday supported by Wall Street's sharp rally overnight Monday, dealers said.

They said most stocks have fallen to attractively cheap levels and are now ripe for bargain-hunting.

The composite index rose 10.02 points to

STOCKS/ B3

BERNANKE

Backer of Fed transparency to succeed Greenspan

BERNANKE AP

WASHINGTON—BEN BERNANKE, US President George W. Bush's pick to succeed retiring Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan, is a widely respected monetary scholar who has long called for a more open central bank.

The vocal backer of inflation targets to guide interest rate policy, who has joked that the only downside of working at the Fed was having to wear a suit, wore a trim one on Monday when he pledged to maintain continuity with the Greenspan era.

Head of Bush's Council of Economic Advisers since June, Bernanke, 51, served on the Fed Board for nearly three years, gaining practical policy experience to complement his earlier theoretical work as an academic.

The collegial Bernanke's focus on central bank transparency—which he sees as key to an effective monetary policy—was rewarded during his years at the Fed as the central bank began offering more clues on where interest rates were heading.

Both before and after joining the Fed, the independent-minded economist argued the central bank could cement its inflation-fighting credibility by putting a number on price stability, a step that Greenspan has opposed as making the Fed less nimble.

While Bernanke's nomination is certain to reignite that debate, the former Princeton University economist still faces formidable opposition from some other prominent members of the Fed's board.

"He's got strong research credentials on both analytical work and economic history and clearly his service at the Fed has familiarized him with a lot of the nuts and bolts of the job," said Michael Prell, former director of research at the Fed Board. "He's shown himself to be a student of the practical tasks of current analysis and forecasting."

Bernanke, who chaired the Princeton

BACKER/ B13

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Bourse bounces back, posts 10.2% growth

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE MANaged to bounce back in the third quarter, with the key index growing 10.2 percent, bourse president Francis Lim said in a recent roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER.

The PSE index climbed 10.2 percent to 1,942.07 points in the third quarter from 1,761.57 in the same period last year. This was also slightly better than the second quarter level.

"This means investors believe that the country's macroeconomic fundamentals are solid," Lim told the INQUIRER.

Value turnover was 22.4 percent lower at P20.73 billion in the third quarter from P26.72 billion in the second quarter.

Compared with the previous year's P20.11 billion, however, the third quarter value turnover was higher at 3.1 percent.

Domestic market capitalization—or the value of each listed company's share at its prevailing market price—grew 23.5 percent in the third quarter at P5.58 trillion from P4.52 trillion in the same quarter last year.

Political worries, arising from protests calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, continued to hound the market in the third quarter.

LIM

The resignation of 10 members of the President's economic team earlier further added to the market jitters.

The third quarter was also marked by concerns over the delay in the implementation of the expanded value added tax law.

Also, listed firms had to contend with the rising cost of money after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas raised its overnight borrowing and lending rates by 25 basis points.

The continued rise in oil prices, hitting a record high of $70.85 a barrel in October, put more cost pressure on these companies.

Adding to the woes was a downgrade of the Philippines' ratings by international credit rating agencies Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's.

Offsetting these negative developments were positive economic reports during the quarter such as the growth in overseas Filipino workers' remittances, net foreign direct investments and the decline in unemployment rates.

The House of Representatives also rejected the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Another plus factor was the junking by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the planned imposition of a 5- to 10-percent capital gains tax on stock trades.

"This will definitely help in our efforts to develop the capital market by attracting more direct investments into the country. A higher transaction cost goes against the national goal of promoting the domestic capital market," Lim said.

Lim said this was the same reason behind the five-year exemption from payment of documentary stamp taxes of transactions in the PSE.

"This development is the fruit of a dialogue between the BIR and the PSE. Mutual cooperation should always exist between the government and the private sector," he noted.

"The government has always been one with capital market players in our efforts to boost liquidity in the stock market through a lower transaction cost and one evidence of this is the suspension of DST in secondary trading last year," Lim said.

He explained the imposition of capital gains tax on block sales would discourage investors from transacting in the exchange.

"In a report prepared by Wilshire Associates for the California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers), the Philippine stock market was listed as one of those having the highest transaction cost," Lim noted.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2005

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	467,117,280.42
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,774,617,225.68
Due from Other Banks		881,213,884.34
Interbanks Loans Receivable		550,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities (Net)		127,302,028.60
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		17,225,531,545.48
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		26,799,876,608.53
Equity Investments (Net)		25,000,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		1,780,966,145.64
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		2,267,439,616.54
Others		1,369,508,014.13
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,268,572,349.36

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	5,468,625,707.72
Savings Deposits		10,221,021,535.16
Time Deposits		31,117,573,691.54
Due to Bangko Sentral		13,561,888.38
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		214,856,674.08
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		56,906,851.47
Other Liabilities		1,087,301,653.12
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	48,179,848,001.47

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	1,795,015,200.00
Surplus		2,905,602,012.47
Surplus Reserves		388,107,135.42
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	5,088,724,347.89
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,268,572,349.36

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Bills for Collection	P	242,381.93
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		398,143,090.31
Invested in:		
Government Securities		2,095,560.03
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock		88,393,512.57
Other Assets		307,654,017.71
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		158,331,120.31
Investment/Fund Management		239,811,970.00
Other Contingent Accounts		119,413,805.97
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	517,799,278.21

Additional Information.

1. Deposits of		
a) Government	P	-
b) Banks		20,523,644.77
c) Trust Department		288,664,206.88
2. a. Total Non-Performing Loans		1,754,297,917.84
b. Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets		2,917,144,582.16
c. General Loan Loss Reserve		265,606,517.81
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve		884,872,450.31
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances		977,097,789.48
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances		-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		5.74%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		3.20%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio		
j. Return on Equity		14.16%
3. Compliance with Magna Carta Credit for SMEs		
a. Percentage of total compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 6% for Small Enterprises		30.38%
b. Percentage of total compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 2% for Medium Enterprises		664%

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We, NOLI S. GOMEZ and PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) NOLI S. GOMEZ
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13 October 2005, at City of Makati, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 22847513 issued at Taytay, Rizal on 07 February 2005 and No. 22867853 issued at Quezon City on 17 February 2005.

Doc. No. 123
Book No. 25
Page No. CC
Series of 2005

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City of Makati

Electronics industry projecting 10% growth in exports next year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S SEMICONDUCtor and electronics industry, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's total exports, is doubling its export growth projection to 10 percent for 2006 from this year's 5 percent.

The projected growth, however, still pales in comparison to the more than 20 percent year-on-year improvement registered by the sector in 2004.

Electronics export growth dropped dramatically after Toshiba pulled out of the country its $1-billion-a-year laptop production operations, according to the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines or Seipi. The electronics industry also suffered from a slump in the global demand this year.

"Barring any major pullout, we see growth hitting double digit level next year," said Seipi president Arthur Young in a briefing yesterday.

From 2001 up to now, 65 electronics companies have shut down or pulled out from Philippine Economic Zone Authority-administered economic zones. Most were small and medium companies, according to Peza Director-General Lilia de Lima.

Young said the biggest challenge confronting the industry now was how it could generate more investments despite concerns over the political situation, high cost of electricity, insufficient infrastructure support and a declining quality of education.

Still, investments in electronics and semiconductors this year could top last year's $420 million. As of August, Seipi said investments in the industry already reached $320 million.

The group is not optimistic that the country will be able to attract major electronics players into doing business here over the next two years.

Intel, for instance, had laid down its plan in the next five years and it did not include any big plan for its Philippine unit.

De Lima said that a lot of other investments being made by the industry were not being captured by the Peza.

The Peza chief said 70 percent of investments in the electronics industry were being made by existing players and only 30 percent were coming from new players. "We would like to flip the trend to a 50-50 sharing between existing and new players," said Young.

Seipi said the government must simplify the process of doing business, cut the cost especially of power and invest more in education.

Sen. Mar Roxas II said that an average business process in the Philippines would take about 23 steps compared to about 18 stages or less in other countries.

"The quality of education in the Philippines has declined. We must be able to produce plug and play graduates. With little training, we can let them off," said Young.

As of August, Young said that exports of semiconductor components grew by 10.7 percent but the total industry, including electronics, posted an export growth of only 2.3 percent.

By yearend, Seipi projected that semiconductor exports would hit more than 10 percent and the total industry by 5 percent.

Growth in semiconductor exports was attributed to the rising demand from the wireless market, personal computers and hybrid cars, said Young.

The government has scaled down its full-year export growth target to 6 percent from 8 percent.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM
November 8, Day 1: The Developers' Series
Intended Output: Basic Career Roadmap for Individuals
- Software Knowledge Worker Trends by Michael RK Mudd, Director for Public Policy, Asia Pacific, CompTIA
- Understanding Programming Work Functions by Bonifacio Belen, Executive Director, Cebu Educational Foundation for IT (CEDF-IT)
- Microsoft Developer Certification by Stanley Tan, MCP, Developer and Platform Lead, Microsoft Philippines
- Java Certifications by Calen Martin D. Legaspi, Sun Certified Enterprise Architect, Software Development Consulting Director, Orange & Bronze Consulting, Inc. and President, PinoyJUG (Pinoy Java User's Group)
- Develop and Deploy Your Applications to the Web - Oracle Developer Suite and Get Certified! by Jully Manuel, Oracle Education Consultant, Oracle University
- Empowering the Filipino I.T. Professional with SAP Certification by Rommel Tiongco, Solutions Architect, SAP Philippines
- Open Source Certifications by Cupid Soriano, Head, Education and Research, Q-Linux

November 9, Day 2: The Leaders' Forum
Intended Output: Basic Quality Framework for the Organization
Key Feature: Capability Maturity Model Integrated (CMMI) by Kamesh Ganeson, Regional General Manager, ECCI
Includes: An Introduction to CMMI; CMMI for Outsourcing Companies; CMMI for Product Developers; Focusing on your Core Asset- People: Understanding P-CMM

Other Day 2 Key Topics
- Software Quality 101....Making Sense of it All by N. Sreenivas, Managing Director, ECCI
- Project Management and Software Quality - The Hidden Connection by IBM
- Successful Business Through Integrated Communication by Cocoy J. Claravall, Head of Application and Solutions Delivery Group, Innove Communications
- An Overview of ITIL by IBM
- An Overview of BS 15000 by Chito Bustamante, COO and Vince Hubert, Quality Assurance Manager, Chikka Asia, Asia's 1st BS 15000-certified I.T. Company
- We Are a Small Software House, Where Do We Begin? by H.Y. Tan, Executive Director, ECCI Solutions. Includes: Taking Your First Steps in Software Quality and The Hybrid Approach
- eSCM, Quality Standard for BPOs by JC Sekar, Asia Pacific Regional Manager, Quality Registration Services, UL International Services Ltd.
- Information Security- Why is it so Important? by David Robinson, Country Manager, SGS Philippines

Plus, a Bonus Discussion on:
The Malaysian Multimedia Super Corridor – Going Full Speed Ahead on CMMI by Narzina Bte Khurshid, Secretary, Software Process Improvement Network (SPIN) Malaysia

*Note: Organizers reserve the right to update content as the need arises.

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The revival of GenBank

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE YUJUICO FAMILY WHO used to control GenBank is calling for a stockholders' meeting to revive the shuttered bank.

Aderito Yujuico, whose family branch alone controls more than 51 percent of the General Bank and Trust Co., is calling the meeting on Nov. 3 in his capacity as chair and president.

Amid financial troubles, GenBank was taken over by the then Central Bank during the martial law years, and its assets and branches subsequently sold off to Allied Bank.

GenBank also lost its corporate registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1993, following years of inactivity.

GenBank has a pending case with the Supreme Court, questioning its Banco Filipino-style takeover and closure and, like Banco Filipino, is asking for billions of pesos in damages from the government.

BMW alert

OWNERS of new BMW cars should take extra care not to get their shiny toys into even minor mishaps.

A recent Los Angeles Times report, "Front-end repair? Maybe just throw it away," says it would be cheaper for owners of BMW cars from 2004 onwards to buy a new car than have their front-ended cars repaired.

The new Bimmers, especially the higher-end 5 and 6 series, have aluminum firewalled-engines glued together by rivets and epoxy adhesives to a tolerance of one millimeter, about the thickness of a dime. This front-end lightness, in turn, is what accounts for the new BMWs' improved cornering, braking and turning.

"Although BMWs can certainly be repaired, it requires a degree of sophistication and cost that may be unprecedented," unlike the steel-framed car bodies that can be bent back into shape, the LA Times motoring story said.

Small beer

SAN MIGUEL Pale Pilsen may be shunned by the Makati yuppies as a peasant drink, but the Philippine brew is still favored by the expatriate community in Hong Kong over the territory's own San Miguel.

Of late, parallel demand for the original brew has been so strong in the Chinese colony that Manila has decided to ship Pale Pilsen regularly but in especially marked "Imported" bottles.

From the usual Lan Kwai Fong and Wan Chai bars, the Philippine Pale Pilsen may now be found in the territory's ubiquitous Wellcome supermarkets, alongside its canned Hong Kong cousin.

The import label comes with premium pricing; over there, the "masa" beer sells at HK$7.90 a bottle (more than P56), as against HK$4.50 for the local San Miguel.

The first to establish a brewery in the then British colony in 1948, San Miguel is now the territory's lone remaining brewer, after Carlsberg closed its own in 1999 to move to cheaper China.

The San Miguel brewery in Yuen Long has about 300 staff, under the supervision of a managing director, Ramon dela Llana. So successful has San Miguel integrated into the community that the average Hong Konger thinks San Miguel is a Hong Kong company.

Money-go-round

- RETAILER Eddie Tekeli has sold 80 percent of Mango to Victor Siasat of Guess, keeping only 20 percent of the Spanish clothing franchise.
- FRENCH Baker is finally equipping its stores with credit and debit card machines.
- RCBC is hosting the Saturday evening concert of the winner of the recent worldwide Talent Olympics in Hollywood, Rizza Navales. Proceeds of the benefit concert at the RCBC Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium will help repair the Lucena City monastery of the Carmelites of St. Joseph.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SUPREME Court has paved the way for the Department of Justice to file estafa complaints against top Fil-Estate Properties officials led by Robert John Sobrepeña and Ferdinand Santos for their failure to develop or even return payments made on their Nasugbu, Batangas, resort project.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Stocks rise ...

From page B1

1,927.49 after trading between 1,917.47 and 1,933.36. Turnover was 409.76 million shares worth P657.09 million.

The broader all-shares index advanced 6.05 points to 1,174.39.

Gainers beat losers 44 to 14, with 40 stocks unchanged.

"Most counters have already reached oversold positions," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

"The bounce in Wall Street and the rise in (Philippine Long Distance Telephone) provided a good kick-off for investors to hunt for bargains." However, dealers were split over whether yesterday's rise can be sustained.

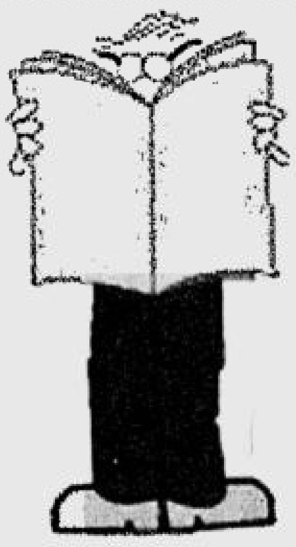
"The 1,900 level is being built as a strong support base. We have the entire fourth quarter to see if that level could be broken," Aguila said.

Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro said the market had staged a technical rebound, which may continue as investors take positions in stocks of companies with strong profit prospects.

Monday's marginal rise in treasury bill rates, following an increase of a quarter of a percentage point in the central bank's overnight interest rates, also gave the equities market some space to rally, Ravelas added.

PLDT led the way, ending P10 higher at P1,655 after gains in its New York-traded shares.

Ayala Land advanced 20 centavos to P8.60, while parent Ayala Corp. ended unchanged at P285. Bank of the Philippine Islands was up 50 centavos to P50.50 and Manila Water Services ended flat at P6.30. *AFP*



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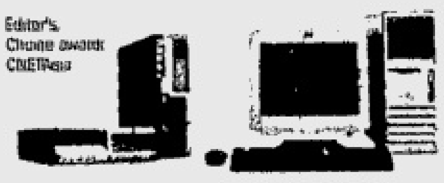

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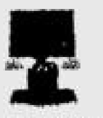

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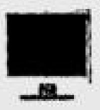

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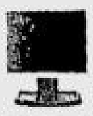

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Flunker turned successful banker advises, 'Don't let setbacks set you back'

By Josie O. Santamaria

CAREER TALES

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED having your dreams dashed to the ground? What did you feel? What did you do then? Jesus Vicente "Vic" Garcia went through this agony of shattered dreams and found success in an unexpected way.

Coming from a humble, poor family, Garcia was driven by a strong desire to help his parents improve their family's social status. Thinking that being a CPA (certified public accountant) would help him achieve this goal, he denied himself the normal pleasures of childhood and adolescence so he could focus his energies on and use his limited resources to pass the CPA board exams. However, as fate would have it, he did not pass the exams. But he went on to become a successful banker and is now First Vice President and Executive Vice President and Head of the Branch Banking Group of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

Little did Garcia know when he experienced the crushing blow of failure that God was opening a wide window for him to succeed in a banking career. His career growth was initially slow and lackluster. But when it took off, his advancement was phenomenal.

If you are one of those hopefuls who did not pass that crucial board or bar exam or whose dreams seem hard to attain, you can learn from this career tale.

Working student

Just like many Filipinos with humble beginnings, Garcia nurtured a burning desire to become a successful professional so that he could have a better life for himself and his family. But he didn't want to burden his parents. So he took it upon himself to be a working student. He worked as a casual employee in the Department of Labor, which hired student trainees and received P35 a week which he used for his transportation and snacks. He was just getting average grades; he knew he could do more if he had more time to study. He denied himself many things enjoyed by the young: no movies, no socializing, no girlfriends, no dating.

He took up BS Commerce, major in Accounting, in Assumption College, Pampanga. He was drawn to accounting because of his love for numbers, for numerical analysis and problem-solving. He was able to finish his accounting course in four years despite his being a working student.

CPA test

After graduation from college, he took the CPA Review School for six months and then took the exam. While waiting for the results of the CPA, Garcia was able to land a job in Security Bank and Trust Co. doing multiple rank-and-file tasks as a distributing clerk and savings and checking accounts bookkeeper.

After six months, the results of the CPA board exam were released. He was at the office when he learned that he did not pass the exam. Stunned, he went to the comfort room and cried. He lost his drive and ambitions. His failure haunted him for months. Finally, Garcia decided to put all the energies from his frustrations into his job.

Then, he was transferred to the Greenhills branch of Security Bank. The branch manager asked him what his career goal was; he told Garcia that he didn't need to be a CPA to be a branch manager and to succeed in a banking career. 'Just excel in your work" was his advice to Garcia. "Many senior officers in the bank are not CPAs themselves." The encouragement of his boss was a big boost to him.

Moving on

From then on, he scanned the classified ads of newspapers for openings for junior officers' positions. He applied for and was taken at Union Bank as branch accountant in 1984. In 1985, he was promoted to assistant manager functioning simultaneously as branch accountant and branch cashier. In 1987, he became officer in-charge of the branch. The branch he managed got the Branch of the Year Award; this got him the visibility he needed. He was promoted to a full branch manager position in 1989. In 1990, he was promoted to senior manager. In 1993, he was promoted to assistant vice president and area head.

In 1997, he left Union Bank to join his former boss as group head for administration in a Makati bank with a salary that enabled him to provide his family with their own house and lot, a car and savings. This was 20 years after flunking the CPA Exams, which had devastated him.

GARCIA

Peak of career

Thirty-nine years old and with substantial savings on hand, Garcia left banking to try his luck in his own business. But the financial crisis in 1997 forced him to give up his dream of becoming a successful businessman. He went back to banking, this time joining Asia Trust as VP area head, a position he held for three years. He was later to be promoted to first vice president and group head of branches. He then joined the Philippine Veterans Bank in 2003 as first vice president and group head of branch banking.

Asked what his career goal is now, Garcia says, "With hard work, perseverance and having focus, the future is still bright for me." He intends to work until he is 60 years old and then, he wants to devote the rest of his life on LOI (i.e., living on interest), doing consulting work, traveling with his wife, and enjoying a leisurely lifestyle.

His advice to ambitious young people: know your goal and be focused on it, persevere and never give up your dreams. "Don't allow setbacks to set you back. They are God's guiding hand leading you to a different direction towards a successful future." (*E-mail feedback to* jsantamaria@careersystems.com.ph)

People at Work Wednesday moves on

By Regina Galang Reyes
PaW editor

IT ALL STARTED WITH A dream to provide a lifeline for people at work, giving information and advice that could perhaps ease the stress of the daily grind of work and help in growing careers. Thus, the People at Work subsection was born last May 31, 2000 on a Wednesday. Two years later, this subsection would have a Sunday edition for jobseekers in INQUIRER's Job Market section serving as a guide to all those wanting to join the workforce.

After more than five years of publishing the Wednesday edition of People at Work, we regret to inform our readers that starting next week, People at Work will no longer be available on Wednesdays. Instead, we will be integrating our Wednesday edition with our Sunday edition.

In INQUIRER's Job Market pages on Sunday, readers can continue getting wise advice from Tita Datu Puangco in her column, "Advice for the Anxious Person at Work." Your favorite "Career Tales," which features people with successful careers, and "All About Work," which provides an array of jobs in the workplace, will still be read on Sundays in the Job Market pages. And "People at Work Pulse" will still be taken by the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development and results published on a monthly basis.

As we move on, we would like to thank our People at Work readers who have assiduously followed our Wednesday edition, lovingly put together scrapbooks of the articles, used the columns and features as discussion guides for their classes and posted them in their office or school bulletin boards. You are our inspiration to continue providing values-filled articles in INQUIRER's pages! We invite you to continue reading People at Work on Sundays in the Job Market pages and giving us feedback through e-mail at peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Filipino manager abroad faces difficult subordinate

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM WORKING IN A LARGE company in the USA. I can say that I already have everything: a high-paying job, car and a house. My manager always lauded me because I am diligent and talented in my work and I'm willing to go beyond parameters or work overtime if they need me. I think these are the reasons why Filipinos are successful around the world and we are often commended by our foreign employers for these good qualities.

I am so passionate about my work. I can say this is really the right career or job for me. I am very goal-oriented, driven and ambitious. I even have plans on taking up a masters in one of the prestigious universities here. My company will reimburse the tuition fees and books a hundred percent if I will get an A.

My problem is I have a personality conflict with one of my subordinates at work. I am a very peace-loving and sweet person whereas she acts as if she wants to instigate a quarrel with me. I cannot get her respect. She sometimes contradicts me at work though I know and I can prove that I am right. She sometimes gives some harsh statements. I'm her boss at work but she keeps on making awful, searing verbal attacks on me.

I ignore her, thinking her attitude will change. My coworkers tell me that she has very big financial, family and health problems so I have to understand her. But I cannot stand anymore her verbal bullying and the situation is really affecting me. I even think working in this company that I really love is not anymore mentally and emotionally healthful for me because of her. She is making my life miserable and I don't know how to deal with her. Please help.

Sweet Person

I understand your situation. What is happening here may be a case of reverse harassment (when the subordinate harasses the boss) or typical diversity dynamics.

Let me explain myself. In this situation, my suggestion is for you to invite the person to a private area so you can talk one on one. Your "collectivist-oriented" Filipino value is in conflict with the fact that one person chooses individually to be critical of you in terms of behavior. You yearn for a team that demonstrates smooth, interpersonal relations. But you are in a cross-cultural situation here. You may want to respond to this person's attacks not by ignoring the problem but by confronting the issue. This situation may be a case of a person ventilating and using you as a scapegoat for her personal problems.

You must realize too that in our country, there is a big distance between subordinates and bosses and that bosses are deferred to and given respect. In the American culture, hierarchy may simply be for convenience and people deal with each other as equals. You have to recognize this as cultural rather than as a personal affront.

After putting the person at ease, you can describe the situation. Say the facts as they are in an objective manner, "In the past months, I noticed you say harsh statements, verbally attacking me. Do you have a problem?" As Filipinos we can get emotionally upset while confronting, with a tendency to shed tears but keep your cool. This approach will allow the person a chance to disclose all that is hurting and affecting her. Listen intently and with empathy. Note down her problems. Then ask her for suggestions how she can resolve her problems. Then, conclude your discussion with a summary of your agreements. Keep close to the person at work so you can monitor how she is addressing her problems.

If this conversation does not work, I suggest asking your manager for help. Resigning from the company will not solve your problem. You are likely to encounter interpersonal problems in the future. Your have to learn the art of cross-culture management. The sooner you muster the courage to address this challenge now, the better for you. All the best.

We want to thank our readers who donated or pledged books to our librarian. They are Arturo Reyes, Zenie Entereso, Rochelle Evangelista, Tere del Rosario, Reynald Ocampo, Meldy Fider, Gwen Carino and Tessie Dumana. I visited Agnes last week at Calasiao Comprehensive High School to deliver my personal donation of books. I am witness to all the empty shelves that are crying for the books you don't need. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

How do you network over the phone?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'M stuck in a cubicle all day, which makes it really hard for me to network with people. I know I should do it, but I don't even know where to begin.

Cubed

I must admit that I have a bit of a gadget freak inside me. Probably my favorite new toy is the "Purring Kitty" software that makes Nokia cell phones vibrate continuously. Someone actually referred to it as a "discreet massager." If you are like me, you are probably realizing that you made the wrong cell phone choice.

Well, here is another use of the phone that you might not have thought of—as a networking tool. Even the most cube-bound employee often has a phone at their disposal. I've listed some strategies below to expand your network via the phone. For more, check out "The New Job Security" by Pam Lassiter (10 Speed, 2002).

Do you listen for cues from the first moment of a call? Recently, I called a journalist and could tell by her voice that she was very harried. I immediately asked her if she was on deadline and she said she was. I then asked her for a time that would be more convenient to talk. She actually thanked me. So listen for cues from the first moment of the call.

Do you keep it short? Everyone is too busy today. I'm a big believer in asking for 10 minutes and then limiting yourself to that amount of time. The last thing you need is to get the reputation of being a time hog.

Do you introduce yourself and give them a reason to want to talk to you? Whether you get them on the phone or you have to leave a message, it is important to begin by saying your name, how they might be able to help you and what you might be able to do for them. Ms Lassiter calls this the "double hook," I call it the old "I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine" approach.

Can you use humor to entice them to want to talk to you? I always ask the person who is referring me if the person I'll be contacting has a sense of humor or if there is some other way to grab their attention.

Do you close with a specific request? Whether it is a follow up call, a meeting or a specific action, it's always a good idea to have a clear takeaway for each networking call.

Do you give them options for how to contact you? I hate to get calls from PR people. I'll personally respond to every e-mail, but calls really bug me. So it's always important to ask people exactly how they'd like you to follow up.

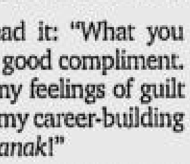
Do you ask for other people you should talk to? This is networking 101, always be looking to expand your network.

Use the phone properly and it can discreetly massage your network.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

It's worth it to be a working mom

WORKING MOM
Gina Abuyuan



HERE'S HOW A CHILD CAN make you cry: she tells you you're her hero because you work hard for her and her brothers; that she thinks you're extra special because you're smart and funny; and that she would like to tell you, being her hero, that she's lucky to be your daughter.

My mother, who is also a working mom, felt the same way too. It was only last year, after reading one of my columns about how some people give WMs (working moms) that "look" when they learn we leave the kids at home with the *lola* or with the *yayas*, that she realized all her remorse was in vain as well.

An excerpt of that piece ran like this:

"When I was growing up, she seldom helped me with my homework (something I never took against her); but she did do my makeup and hair for my junior and senior prom, and all my sorority balls. She had a temper when she was stressed, but there was not a single time when I was sick (even as a teenager) that she did not lose sleep to rub my back and chest with Vicks or prepare me a steam bath. There was a time when she had to take a long-term assignment in Cagayan, then later finish her Ph.D in the US, but I never thought she was a bad mom. Stereotypical representations of working moms' kids like to portray them resenting their moms' careers, but I never did. It was just the way things were. I'd like to believe that how my mom is added spice, color, dimension—character!—to what I am now, because she herself is wonderful mix of Woman. She's there in a snap when I need her, and when my twins sleep over in her house, she's a nonstop super *lola*—right down to giving them their baths."

And this is what my mom texted me when she read it: "What you wrote was a darn good compliment. It has erased all my feelings of guilt that I had during my career-building years. Thank you *anak*!"

Of course, being a working mother and loving your career doesn't absolve you from the mothering a child needs. Studies show that children of stay-at-home moms fare better in verbal development until the 36th month. But, a lot of the child's development depends on your home environment, childcare (the *yayas*), and sensitivity to your children's needs. When she cries, do you give comfort? When she's active, do you actively play and interact with her? By being sensitive, you're responding to her from where she's coming from—and not from where or what you want to do.

According to another study on iParenting, "working moms are more likely to use an authoritative approach that depends on reason rather than assertions of parental power." Stay-at-home mothers "are more likely to use either an authoritarian or a permissive parenting style," says University of Michigan psychologist Lois W. Hoffman, co-author of "Mothers at Work: Effects on Children's Well-being."

Not to make stay-at-home mothers wrong (and by God would I want to experience being a SAHM sometime in my life!), but the discipline styles between SAHMs and WMs may have an impact on the way the children approach goal-setting and socializing. WMs, for example, differentiate less between sons and daughters in their goals for their kids, and, not surprisingly, value independence more for their daughters. Then again, this rosy picture also has the father's involvement and home environment tucked in.

The article ends with this: "Hoffman notes, having a full-time job isn't just good for the children. In working-class families, working mothers were less depressed, and their morale was higher than that of stay-at-home counterparts. "They feel a sense of empowerment," Hoffman says. "If they're earning money, they feel that disaster is less likely to hit them."

Part of that home environment, I believe, is the school, since that's where your kid spends most of his or her time. I can't gush enough about Multiple Intelligence International School (MI). The parents have a great community, the children are genuinely happy, and the teachers are so into the kids. I must thank Simone's homeroom teacher, Tess, and MI's directress, Joy Abaquin, for being part of my home environment.

Being a solo mom isn't easy, and they've supported me and Simone in every way to make sure Sim gets the best education, care and understanding she needs outside the walls of our little apartment. Thanks so much, guys. This is me telling the whole world (or at least, the readers of this column), that the difference you're making will ripple and resound all over and return with countless blessings for you and your families. You deserve your own "hero" award.

(Gina Abuyuan is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. Get the October issue of Working Mom, with a beautiful Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan on the cover. Comments are welcome at gina_abuyuan@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

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(As of October 25, 2005)

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Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	50	50.5	2,236,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.57	940,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	134,100
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	35,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	27	26	26.5	589,800
Philippine National Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	128,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29	41,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2800	2810	2800	2810	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	250,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2015	2010	2010	790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	5,100
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	710	705	705	19,940
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	39,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.5	1.66	1.5	1.66	54,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	253,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1645	1655	1645	1655	107,720
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	6,780,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	16,400
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	20.25	20.5	276,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	374,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.35	983,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	349,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.67	270,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	105,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.05	3.2	3.05	3.2	1,381,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	12,000
Pancake House Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	15,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	71,000
San Miguel Corp. B	90.5	91	90	90	3,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	24,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	287.5	282.5	285	55,020
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	192,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	380,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	25,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.85	1,710,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	0.99	2,100,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	690,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	2,190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	484,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	762,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	324,500
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	6,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	2,171,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.38	1,856,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,100,000
Paxys Inc.	5	5	4.95	4.95	378,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	36,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	219	220	81,050
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	4,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3	3.5	3	3.5	45,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	6,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	250,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	102,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	17,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	15,140,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	3,630,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	380,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	2,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,810,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,870,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	230,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	111,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	5,608,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	60,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	236,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.225	0.215	0.225	4,840,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	3,760,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.18	1.26	1.18	1.24	12,144,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	27.5	26	27	431,800
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	109,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,470,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	4,373,100	143,934,230.00
Comm'l & Ind'l.	92,057,130	300,169,115.00
PRO	32,479,000	177,163,930.00
Mining	113,851,800	33,946,120.00
OIL	165,570,000	1,507,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	408,331,030	656,720,595.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc.	542.25	UP 4.49
Comm'l & Ind'l.	3,053.41	UP 9.64
PRO	731.18	UP 7.70
Mining	2,512.07	UP 125.25
OIL	3.08	UP 0.13
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,174.39	UP 6.05
Composite	1,927.49	UP 10.02

NO. OF ADVANCES: 44, NO. OF DECLINES: 14, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98, NO. OF TRADES: 1,665

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Directors of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** appointed Eduardo Sergio G. Edeza as treasurer and head of the Financial Management Group with the rank of executive vice president effective Nov. 1.

***

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 18, 2 p.m. at the Skytop on the 14th floor of Hotel InterContinental Manila on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. All stockholders on record as of Oct. 25 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting.

***

CADP Group Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 17, 10 a.m. at the AIM Conference Center on the corner of Benavidez and Trasierra Streets in Legaspi Village, Makati City. All stockholders on record as of Oct. 14 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting.

***

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25, 10 a.m. at the Mahogany Room of the Mandarin Oriental hotel on Makati Avenue, Makati City. All stockholders on record as of Oct. 26 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting. ***Compiled by: Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 25, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.834168	1.000000	55.4330
Japan	Yen	0.007226	0.008663	0.4802
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475642	1.769000	98.0610
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107563	0.128947	7.1479
Switzerland	Franc	0.648250	0.777122	43.0782
Canada	Dollar	0.702990	0.842744	46.7158
Singapore	Dollar	0.492482	0.590388	32.7270
Australia	Dollar	0.625219	0.749513	41.5478
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.212880	2.652801	147.0527
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222421	0.266638	14.7805
Brunei	Dollar	0.491034	0.588651	32.6307
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020405	0.024462	1.3560
UAE	Dirham	0.227133	0.272287	15.0937
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.198800	66.4531
Argentina	Peso	0.280392	0.336134	18.6329
Brazil	Real	0.368368	0.441599	24.4792
Denmark	Kroner	0.134035	0.160681	8.9070
India	Rupee	0.018492	0.022168	1.2288
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221013	0.264950	14.6870
Mexico	New Peso	0.076913	0.092203	5.1111
New Zealand	Dollar	0.584929	0.701213	38.8703
Norway	Kroner	0.127679	0.153062	8.4847
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013975	0.016753	0.9287
South Africa	Rand	0.125954	0.150994	8.3701
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.000945	0.0524
Sweden	Kroner	0.104863	0.125710	6.9685
Syria	Pound	0.016069	0.019264	1.0679
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024738	0.029656	1.6439
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000389	0.000466	0.0258

PSBank posts 60% jump in net profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK, A UNIT OF LOCAL banking giant Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., reported a 60.1-percent increase in net profit to P501.6 million from January to September from a year ago.

The strong growth in net earnings was due to the 45-percent rise in net interest income, the bank reported yesterday.

Customer loans went up to P28 billion or by 19 percent from a year ago due to aggressive marketing efforts and faster turnaround time for loan approval especially for auto loans.

"The unprecedented growth of PSBank is a result of our continued focus on customers, strengthening of the balance sheet and solidifying our leadership position in the banking industry," PSBank president Pascual Garcia III said in a statement.

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4 bedrooms, 4 toilets & baths, 5-car garage with swimming pool, tennis & pelota court, Lot Area – 2,400 sq.m., Floor Area – 750 sq.m., **Alabang Hills Village**. Name your price. It may just be taken. **0917-525-2561**

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SM FAIRVIEW Basement 416 7640
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635 5061

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✓ MAXIMUM RETURNS. Higher interest as much as 9.5% p.a
✓ SURE INCOME. Fixed interest for the entire term.
✓ AFFORDABLE. Low investment of P30,000.

Sample Computation:

Rate* (per annum)	8.5%	9%	9%	9.5%
Term	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	> 5 yrs.
P 50,000	P 8,500	P 13,500	P 18,000	P 23,763
P 100,000	P 17,000	P 27,000	P 36,000	P 47,526
P 1,000,000	P 170,000	P 270,000	P 360,000	P 475,260

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Office Mid-Volume range: L220 / L295, MF3112
Office High-Volume range: L380, MF5750 / MF5770
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Celebrity blast at SM Valenzuela opening

SOME OF TODAY'S HOTTEST artists will topbill the opening weekend of SM Prime's 21st Supermall SM Supercenter Valenzuela.

A celebrity blast highlighting Kyla and South Border will accompany its opening to the public on Friday, Oct. 28. Kyla will perform cuts from her fourth album, "Not Your Ordinary Girl" at 11 a.m., while South Border, the group behind ballads like "Rainbow", "Kahit Kailan", and "Wherever You Are", will fill the mall with their to-fall-in-love-with music at 5 p.m.

Pretty Anne Curtis, the lead star of ABS-CBN's "Kampanerang Kuba", will visit the mall on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m., while Aeit Awards' best female performer Kitchie Nadal will perform live at 5 p.m. Kitchie recently was a big hit at her recent SM Live music roadshow at SM Megamall, SM City Manila, and SM City North-Edsa, following the double platinum success of her first solo album.

The Sunday crowd will be treated to a pantomime performance based on the adventures of Zorro on Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. Young stars Sandara Park and BJ "Tolits" Forbes take center-stage at 11 a.m. Tolits, best known as the smart kid in a laundry commercial, will also promote his first starring movie "Ispiritista: Itay, May Moomoo".

Spongecola, the hip local band best known for hits like "Jeepney", "KLSP", and "Crazy For You" (a Madonna remake) will rock the mall at 5 p.m.

A grand fireworks display will light up the Valenzuela skies on Oct. 28 and 29 to highlight the celebratory mood. SM Supercenter Valenzuela is located along MacArthur Highway in Valenzuela.

TOYOTA INAUGURATES NEWEST SHOWROOM

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp (TMPC) recently inaugurated its latest dealership-the new Toyota Bicutan, Parañaque-located at Km. 15 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Bicutan, Parañaque City. The newest dealership gives citizens of Parañaque and of peripheral communities more access to Toyota's industry-leading passenger cars and commercial vehicles and its state-of-the-art service facilities. Shown are Parañaque City Mayor Florencio M. Bernabe Jr and his wife cutting the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the dealership, assisted by Toyota Motor Philippines president Nobuharu Tabata (right) and Toyota Bicutan president Santos Guerrero.

Philippines tops in Japan parade

THE PHILIPPINES HAS PLACED SECond in the famous Midosuji Parade in Osaka, Japan but topped all the foreign entries that included the United States, Russia, China, Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand.

The prestigious win is the Philippines' third in less than six months since the country won the gold in the Nature's Wisdom Award and the Global 100 Eco-Tech Award in the recently concluded World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

This was announced by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano, heaping praises on the winning Philippine float that colorfully featured Negros Occidental's Masskara Festival and its dancers.

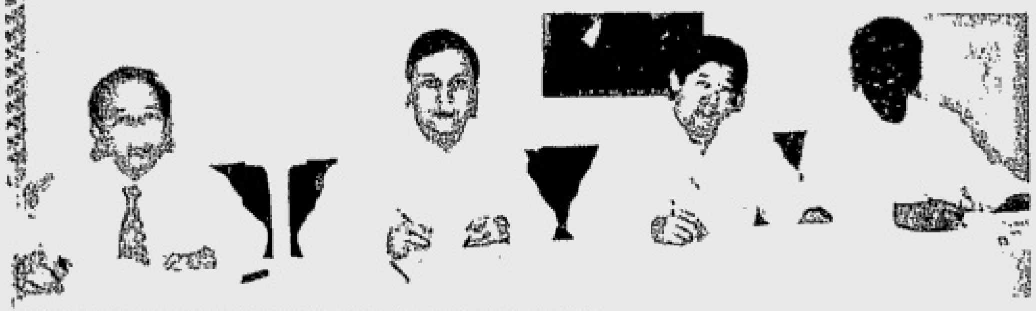
Co-sponsored by Philippine Airlines, the parade was witnessed by more than a million Japanese spectators, and millions more through their TV sets as the event was covered by all of Japan's major TV networks, according to Durano.

The feat comes as another big boost to the Philippines' vigorous tourism promotional campaign targeted at Japan's whopping 17.4 million outbound market, which is projected to even surge to 20 million by 2010.

Participating in that 3.5-km parade were members of the Filipino community in Osaka. The parade winners were announced at the international friendship reception in the Osaka City Public Hall.

Aside from the parade, the Philippines took part in various performances in different venues in Osaka before and after the event, including the Heisei Rakuichi Marketplace Festival at the Minatomachi Riverplace and the International Marching Band Festival at the Expo '70 Commemoration Park in Suita City.

The Philippines has been participating in the annual Midosuji Parade for seven years now, featuring the traditional Santacruzan in 1999, rice terraces and the Kalinga culture in 2000, Pista sa Nayon and the Philippine Dance Company's Osaka group in 2001, the exotic Davao vinta in 2002, the Bulaklakan "Panagbengga" Festival and Sindaw Dance Troupe in 2003, and the Davao Philippine Eagle and Maria Clara in 2004.



BPI SELLS P2.4B NPLS TO AMROC GROUP

The Bank of the Philippine Islands signed a sale and purchase agreement with the Amroc Group and its affiliates involving a P2.4-billion portfolio of non-performing loans (NPLs). The Amroc Group has been a leader in the US distressed market since it was founded in 1991. BPI continues to lead the way in undertaking pioneering transactions in the banking industry. Last year, BPI sold an P8.6-billion NPL portfolio to Philippine Asset Investment (SPV-AMC Inc), a unit of Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc. This was the first transaction entered into by a Philippine universal bank and a major international financial institution under the SPV Law. With the NPL sale to the Amroc Group, BPI demonstrates its commitment to maximize shareholder value and to continue its tradition of leadership. The sale also bodes well for the country as it indicates the Amroc Group's positive outlook for the country as well as continued foreign interest in investment opportunities in the Philippines. Shown are, from left, BPI SVP Oscar S. Molinyawe, BPI EVP Gil A. Buenaventura, Lawyer-in-fact Eduardo A. Gana and BPI SVP Senen Matoto.

SJC RESPONDS TO CHED CALL

The St. Jude College board of trustees, headed by Dr. Evangeline del Rosario, president and chief executive officer, and Dr. Benjamin del Rosario, treasurer, has officially approved the signing of a memorandum of agreement of research grantees for this school year. According to Dr. Marilyn Yap, EVP and COO, this action is in line with the CHED order on strong research programs on every colleges and universities. In addition, SJC faculty researchers would receive additional six-unit compensation. St. Jude College is an institution for the development of man's potentialities. Shown during the contract signing are, from left, Asuncion Jayawon, SJC faculty researcher; Yap; and Dr. Reynaldo R. Portillo, director, Center for Research and Development.

2006 PBBY-Salanga Prize call for entries

THE PHILIPPINE BOARD ON BOOKS for Young People (PBBY) is now accepting entries for the 2006 PBBY-Salanga Prize. Stories should be intended for children aged 6 to 12 years old. Entries may be in Filipino or English. All entries must be received by the PBBY secretariat no later than 5 p.m., Oct. 28. The contest is co-sponsored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and The National Library. The winner will be given a cash prize of P25,000, a gold medal, and an opportunity to be published. For more inquiries, log on to www.adarna.com.ph or e-mail pbby@adarna.com.ph.

MAYBANK SIGNS MOA WITH MAPFRE

Maybank Philippines Inc (MPI), a member of the Maybank Group-Malaysia's largest banking group and among Asia's top20 banks-recently appointed Mapfre Asian Insurance Corp (Mapfre) to provide insurance cover on the collaterals securing the loans of Maybank clients as well as of the bank's acquired assets. The signing ceremony took place at the Maybank head office boardroom. Signing in behalf of Maybank are, from left, Edwin A. Manalastas, SVP and head for central operations, and Lim Hong Tat, president and CEO. Representing Mapfre are Enrique Clemente III, president; and Glenn K. Tolentino, first vice president and head, Makati office. Standing in as witnesses are Gerardo E. Dangca (left), AVP and head for credit administration and services (MPI), and Rolan L. Dela Vega, VP for finance (Mapfre).

Have you been 'sejuiced'?

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THAT "JUIcers" are important dispensers of vitamins and minerals taken from fruits and vegetables. But did you know that (fast) high-speed juice extractors (and food processors) have a destroying effect on enzymes, because high speed produces friction, and friction generates heat. Enzymes are sensitive to temperatures above approximately 42 degrees C and after 48 degrees they deteriorate.

Juice extractors that run at high speeds of 7,000 to 10,000 revolutions per minute (RPM) creates heat; therefore, enzymes are destroyed.

Matstone Multipurpose Juice Extractor is the only juicer in the market today that operates at low RPM (80). The fresh juice (living enzymes) extracted by low-speed juice extractors from raw fruits and vegetables create living juice, packed with living enzymes and contains up to 60-percent richer in nutrients than juice extracted by high-speed juicers.

Matstone also offers a variety of other functions such as blending, mincing, making pasta/noodles, soya milk, mixing sauces, mincing fish and meats and bean curd, to grinding coffee beans.

IAJ Corp exclusively distributes Matstone. For more information, call 373-7396/97 or 373-7399 or e-mail matstone@iajcorp.com.

TESCU FOUNDER LAUNCHES EVENTS BOOK

Dr. Zenaida L. Cruz, founding president of Tourism Educators of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Tescu) and a Tourism Professor of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, has written a book titled 'Convention and Events Management' intended to introduce students to the meeting, convention and exhibition industry. It also aims to provide a practical guide to event management. Shown is Cruz handing a copy of the book to Deputy Director Daniel Corpuz of the Philippine Convention and Visitor Corp.

Franchise opportunities in Cebu

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES IN CEBU WILL now have the opportunity to expand via the franchising format as the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) sets its third leg of regional franchise shows on Oct. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Casino Espanol, F. Ramos St. Ranudo, Cebu City

Titled "How to Franchise Your Business", the seminar will provide franchise enthusiasts in Cebu and its neighboring regions with knowledge on franchise development process, franchise advantage and perspectives on the industry. It will also provide insights on the legal requirements of franchising, and the financial resource providers linkage. The whole day activity will provide participants with opportunity to meet the people who can help them in expanding their businesses, how to utilize technology for optimal franchise operations, and to learn more about franchising the right way.

The Cebu franchise seminar is part of PFA's Fast Ventures Project, a series of regional activities that aims to identify and develop SMEs with high potential to franchise, providing them with the knowledge on how to expand their businesses and become the next franchise giants in the country.

PFA's Fast Ventures Project is scheduled in eight regions, including Baguio City, Davao City, Metro Manila, Pampanga, Cavite, Aklan, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro City in partnership with the PCCI local chambers, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Cida-PEARL2 Project.

Interested parties can call Jarrah Jurani of CCCI at (032) 232-1421 to 24, 232-3957; fax at (032) 232-1422; 412-9461; or e-mail jarrah@cebuchamber.com.ph, jar_jurani@yahoo.com or call the PFA secretariat at (02) 687-0365 up to 67, 0917-8320732 or fax 687-0635.

ProductFiles

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DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR skin sheds up to 20 billion dead cells everyday? Your skin's epidermis, or outermost layer, continually renews itself by regenerating new cells at its base. Without a healthy turnover of cells, billions of dead cells build up on your skin and begin to clog your pores, resulting in a rough, damaged complexion.

Proper skin care accelerates your skin's renewal process, which helps give you a pinkish, glowing complexion. A good skin care regimen is responsible for strengthening your skin and bringing out its natural beauty and appearance. It calls for 4 basic steps: Deep cleansing, exfoliating, toning, and moisturizing.

Leading skin care expert Owi Laboratories Malaysia lets you discover your skin's natural healthy radiance with its latest innovation in the science of beauty, Cosmoderm. Cosmoderm provides you quality skincare specially formulated specifically for Asian Skin. It offers serious skin care with its wide range of natural cleansers, exfoliants, toners, and moisturizers to provide the best and most specific solution for your skin.

With Cosmoderm products, noticeable improvements and skin clarity can be seen in as early as two weeks. Cosmoderm products are available in all SM Department Stores, Watsons, Mercury Drugstores, The Landmark and other leading outlets nationwide. The skin care hotline is 636-1166.

Nissan Gallery X-Treme Madness at Market! Market!

NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS (NGO) will be holding a special promo event at Market! Market! at The Fort from Oct. 28 to 30, where vehicle buyers can beat the deadline to buy their choice Nissan vehicle before the E-VAT takes effect. Likewise, a trip for two to Hong Kong will be at stake for buyers of Nissan vehicles.

"Every interested buyer of Nissan vehicles will get a chance to win a trip for two to Hong Kong, and avail of our low-down, zero interest financing schemes to drive home the Nissan vehicle of their choice at a price that is still not affected by the E-VAT," said Johnny Yu, VP for operations of NGO.

On-the-spot financing approvals, cash discounts, zero participation on insurance and trade-ins can also be availed of by buyers of Nissan vehicles during NGO's promo period. The financing deals will be provided by Philam Savings Bank.

Aside from displaying an array of production and dressed-up Nissan vehicles, NGO will also put on display various car accessories from shops like Kai Racing, Dubshop, Carryboy, Nextbase, Autozone and Leatherland.

The Nissan vehicles that are the favorite of car enthusiasts for dressing up are the X-Trail and Sentra I-Style. The X-Trail gets its dressing up cues from its off-road capabilities, while the Sentra I-Style is best dressed up to look like a go-fast boy racer sedan.

NGO is one of the premiere Nissan dealerships in Metro Manila that caters to the growing market of car buyers in the Pasig-Ortigas area. It also has a growing clientele in Cainta, the gateway of Rizal province to Metro Manila. Its sister dealership, Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue, caters to car buyers who live in the heart of Quezon City.

By extending its activities to Market! Market!, NGO is ready to provide the best Nissan can offer to vehicle buyers from other parts of Metro Manila and Rizal province.

On the other hand, Market! Market! has become a popular destination for shoppers coming from the eastern side of Metro Manila and Pasig City. It usually attracts large crowds during the weekends.

"NGO has been known to provide the best in products and services to its clientele. So those who will go to Market! Market! from Oct. 28 to 30 to inquire or buy Nissan products can expect the best treatment from us. So don't miss this event at Market! Market!. This is your last chance to buy your dream Nissan vehicle before any price increase takes effect with the implementation of E-VAT by Nov. 1," Yu said.

Court asked to dismiss Smart suit vs Sun's 24/7 promo

By Clarissa S. Batino

DIGITEL MOBILE PHILS. INC. HAS asked the Court of Appeals to dismiss the petition of Pilipino Telephone Corp. that sought to stop Sun Cellular from offering its 24/7 unlimited call and text promo.

Digitel Mobile, which operates the Sun Cellular brand, had asked the appellate court to deny Piltel's motion and to cite the competitor for "direct contempt"

Digitel claimed that Piltel, a unit of Smart Communications Inc., was forum shopping under Sec. 5 Rule 7 of the Rules of Court.

Forum shopping refers to the practice of petitioners of getting their legal case heard in a court that it believes will most likely render a favorable judgment.

In reaction to a Piltel motion, the Court of Appeals had barred the National Telecommunications Commission for 60 days from enforcing a May 2005 circular that eased the policy on network standards for promos such as 24/7.

Piltel, in its petition last week, asked the court to stop Sun Cellular from implementing its 24/7 promo. The Smart subsidiary that operates the Talk N' Text brand said the restraining order against the NTC was insufficient and incomplete without a similar order on 24/7.

"A temporary restraint on private respondent for its 24/7 service is necessary to achieve this purpose because otherwise, (it) would be allowed to unilaterally revise its charging scheme in violation of due process and without regard to the public respondent's regulations on the required grade of service," said Piltel in its petition to the CA.

Piltel complained that the NTC issued its May 2005 order without due process. It also accused the NTC of regulatory failure by allowing Sun Cellular to commit alleged violations on network performance standard "with impunity."

"Worst still, (the NTC's) failure to resolve the complaints below only continues to benefit (Sun Cellular) whose 24/7 service remains unaffected by the temporary restraining order issued by the Court," said Piltel.

The NTC said that while the 60-day restraining order was in effect, it could not impose the May 2005 circular.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis, pointed out, however, that the court did not say that it must revert to its 2002 circular requiring wireless players to maintain a network quality that would connect 93 out of 100 calls on the first attempt.

Smart and Globe claimed that Sun Cellular connects only 38 out of 100 calls on the first attempt. Both alleged that NTC erred in issuing the May 2005 order.

Transco inks 3 more lease-purchase deals

Privatization of sub-transmission assets

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORP. (TRANSCO) signed three new lease-purchase agreements for its sub-transmission assets, bringing the value of total assets disposed of so far to P1 billion.

The new deals, signed separately last week at the Transco Quezon City head office and in Cagayan De Oro, were with Tarlac Electric Inc. (TEI), Misamis Oriental-I Rural Electric Service Cooperative Inc. and Misamis Oriental-II Rural Electric Service Cooperative Inc. The deals amounted to P131 million.

The TEI contract is the sixth that Transco had signed with a Luzon distribution utility. Under the agreement, the power distributor will pay P18.4 million for 223 structures along the Concepcion-TEI 69-kilovolt (kV) and Concepcion-Maliwalu lines.

Full payment will be due 10 calendar days after the approval of the agreement by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Moresco I will be purchasing P54.5 million worth of sub-transmission assets within its franchise area. These assets include 520 line structures and substation assets.

Unlike TEI, the electric cooperative will initially be paying only 20 percent of the purchase cost, or P10.9 million, upon the ERC's approval of the sale. The balance will be repaid over 15 years and six months.

Moresco II, on the other hand, has agreed to acquire 356 line structures along the Nasipit-Gingoog 69-kV and Gingoog-IndoPhil 69-kV lines for P58.2 million.

As with Moresco I, the electric cooperative will pay a 20-percent downpayment on the assets, or about P11.7 million, also due upon ERC approval of the sale. The remainder will be amortized over 19 years.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in a statement yesterday that the state firm had so far signed 21 lease-purchase or purchase agreements with distribution utilities and electric cooperatives all over the country.

This was still in fulfillment of its mandate under RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), to divest its sub-transmission assets, he said.

"Divesting these assets to qualified firms will ultimately boost the reliability, security and affordability of electricity for the end-consumers. Now it's up to the ERC to approve these contracts," he said.

While Transco had already signed 21 contracts, the ERC had yet to approve a single deal.

CebuPac offers special fare

CEBU PACIFIC IS OFFERING A ONE-WAY fare of P999 from Manila to Puerto Princesa from Dec. 9 to 16.

"We will make available 1,000 seats for this promo as an incentive to the price-conscious traveler early into the holiday season," Bong Mojica, CEB general manager, said.

Bookings for the special fare during the promo week would be accepted until Nov. 2. The roughly one-hour flights leave Manila at 7:40 a.m. and Puerto Princesa at 9:30 a.m.

Puerto Princesa is the gateway to many tourist destinations and world-class resorts in Palawan and its neighboring islands. Known as "the last frontier", it is a haven for adventure seekers and nature lovers. It also boasts of exotic wildlife, snorkeling, scuba diving and delectable food.

Mojica added: "CEB will offer a promo fare of only P999 one way to entice the traveling public to fly to Puerto Princesa for the holidays, and experience one of the best destinations our country has to offer."

CEB now operates two brand-new Airbus A320 and two A319 aircraft to service its routes, and is expecting two more A319s to be delivered by the end of the year. Aside from its Manila hub, the airline dominates flights in the Mindanao and Visayas regions using the Cebu hub. The airline services 14 domestic destinations and also flies to Hong Kong and South Korea.

GOKONGWEI airline wooing the market

Peso surges to 4-month high

From page B1

The peso opened at its intra-day low of 55.46 and hit a high of 55.25 before closing. Volume traded at the spot foreign exchange market amounted to $481 million.

Local currency dealers said OFW inflows supported the local currency, noting that remittances were seasonally high at end-October in time for tuition payments for the second semester of the school year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects OFW inflows coursed through banks to hit a record-high of $10.3 billion by year's end or 20 percent better than the inflows in 2004.

Traders said there was likewise a carryover euphoria from the lifting of the temporary restraining order on the expanded value-added tax.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' 25-basis-point increase in overnight rates—and the possibility of further domestic monetary tightening—also made the local currency more attractive than the US dollar.

On the other hand, the US dollar weakened overnight as the markets reacted with caution to the announcement by President George W. Bush of his nominee to replace Alan Greenspan as chair of the US Federal Reserve. ***(See story on page B1.)***

Traders expect the market to re-test the 55.25 level and if breached, the next target was seen at 55:$1.

Rise in crude prices . . .

From page B1

oil would soon begin to decline gradually. He predicted that the average price of oil (using West Texas Intermediate or WTI), which has breached $60 a barrel in August, would fall below that level starting next week.

The growth in imports in August followed a 3.1-percent decline in July, reflecting an erratic movement in the value of imports. Abola said the latest imports growth figure was not necessarily an indication that demand was already rising.

The latest imports data brought the cumulative figure—from January to August—to $29.23 billion, 0.2 percent lower than the $29.29 billion in the same period last year.

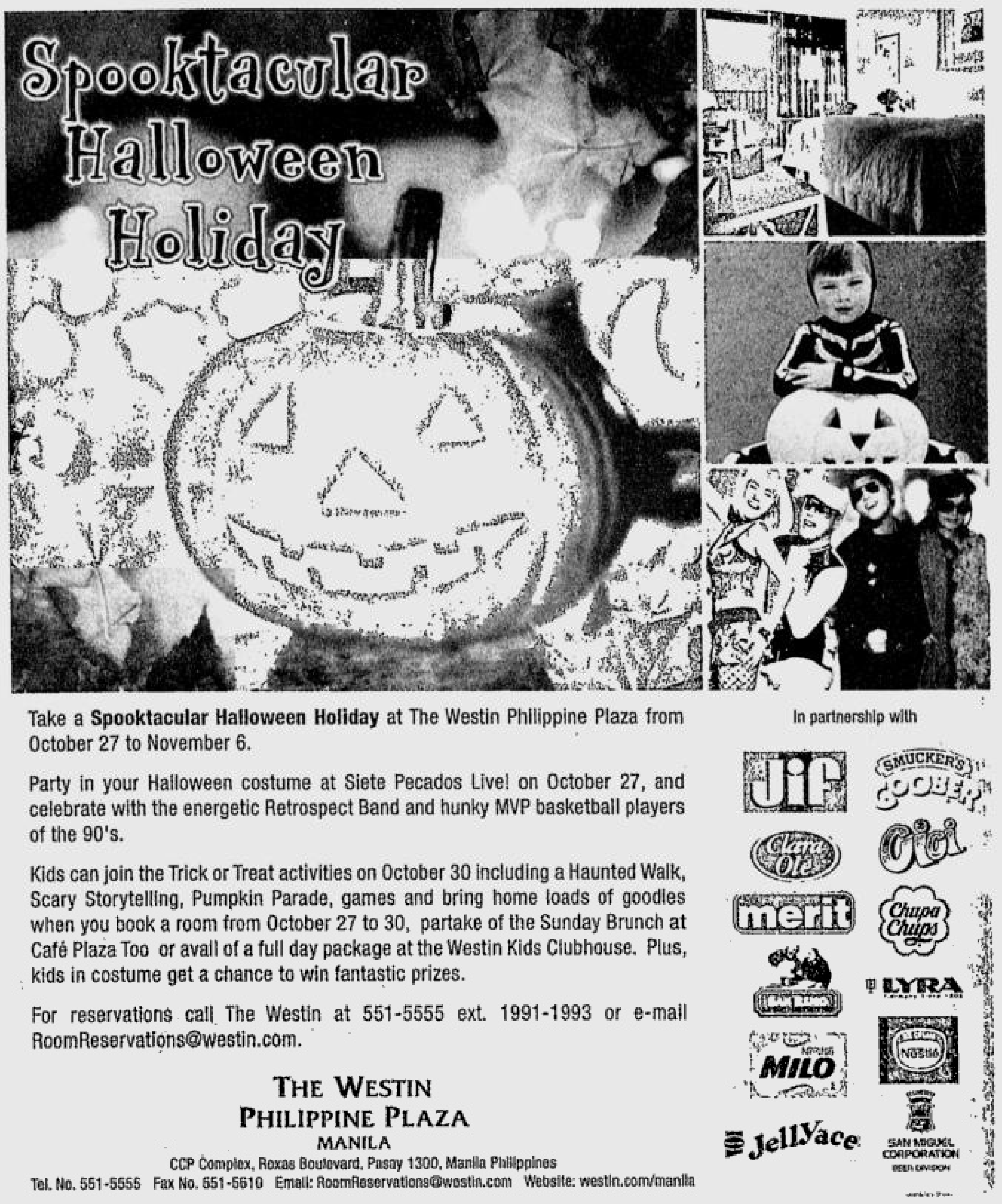
With exports for the first eight months of the year at $26.36 billion, the country's external trade performance resulted in a deficit of $2.87 billion, lower than last year's $3.97 billion.

External trade performance, either a deficit or a surplus, is the difference between the value of imports and exports. A trade deficit, which results from imports being higher than exports, eats up on the country's dollar reserves.

The NSO report showed that industrial machinery and equipment imports, which accounted for $179.59 million of the total import bill for August, grew by 37.3 percent from last year. The NSO said this was due to the increase in the value of specialized machinery and equipment imports.

Other top imports for August were: transport equipment, $121.26 million; cereals and cereal preparations, $99.12 million; textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products, $90.63 million; telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, $81.11 million; plastics in primary and non-primary forms, $80.0 million, and organic and inorganic chemicals, $73.55 million.

The NSO also reported that the biggest sources of imports by the Philippines were the United States, which accounted for $694.58 million; Japan, $643.6 million; Saudi Arabia, $338 million; Singapore, $301.94 million; Taiwan, $281.61 million; China, $264.83 million; Korea, $200.53 million; Hong Kong, $177.58 million; Malaysia, $134.59 million, and Thailand, $130.08 million.



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Will hybrids ever make it in RP?

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT IS INEVITABLE. SOONER or later society would have to be weaned out of its dependence on limited fossil fuels and "force-fed" limitless, environment-friendly sources of energy. Today we're already feeling the feeding bottle slowly being withdrawn from our suckling lips. And that doesn't come without a certain feeling of anxiety, as what world oil prices and the global economy is exhibiting right now.

On the other hand, though, today's realities have provided carmakers all over the world the framework to create consumer-manufacturer relationships through products that would ensure the carmakers' survival even long after the last drop of oil in the world has burned up.

Race for alternative fuels

So the race for alternative fuels has begun. Well, it has been on since wind and sun and electricity, and, yes, even water, had been experimented on to power our mobility. The finish-line is uncertain. Someone somewhere may just shout "Eureka!" and produce a vehicle that runs entirely on something else other than fossil fuels, at an unlimited mileage and at a fraction of the cost.

As expected, the developed world, where most of the world's oil is being consumed, is leading this race. US and Japan-based carmakers have introduced "hybrid" cars—vehicles that run on traditional and alternative fuels such as fuel cells or electricity. Propelled by tax reductions and exemptions, hybrid cars have become increasingly more commercially viable in these countries.

From 2001 to July 2004, Toyota Prius sales in the United States had doubled, shooting up from 15,556 units sold to 27,012, while the 2002 to 2004 sales of the Honda Civic hybrids, which started from 12,505, have gone up modestly to 12,948 in the United States.

In Japan, there were 11,003 Prius owners in 2001. By September 2004, that number has more than quadrupled to 47,212. The hybrid Civics in Japan followed the US trend, starting from 228 owners in 2001 to 325 in 2004.

In the Philippines, a hybrid vehicle from either Toyota or Honda has yet to come to shore. The obstacle might not lie in the market's readiness to drive a hybrid, but in the cost that such vehicles demand up front with its would-be buyers.

Commercial viability

Due to high import duties and the excise tax, a completely built-up Toyota Prius hybrid, for instance, would fetch P2.050 million (pre-EVAT)—a price too stiff for a 1.5-liter sedan. Toyota Motor Philippines' first vice president for sales and marketing Danny Isla estimates that, for the Prius to be commercially viable in this country, it would have to bring the price tag down to the Camry's level—say P1.2 to 1.4 million.

But would that price still be considered too high? Not so, according to Isla, if you factor in the fuel costs in the long run.

Toyota claims its 1.5-liter Prius automatic transmission (111PS, 478Nm) is twice as fuel-efficient as that of a Toyota Corolla 1.8-liter A/T. Whereas the Corolla might run for 16 km on a liter of gas, the Prius 1.5 A/T runs for 33 km.

Computing for the actual fuel cost of a Corolla Altis in the long run (at a per-liter cost of unleaded gasoline at P32.50 and a travel distance of 1,500 km monthly, with the Altis consuming 10 km per liter), the Altis would have consumed P300,000 worth of fuel in five years. For the same time frame and with the same distance traveled per month, a Prius would have consumed only P150,000 worth of fuel.

The present government, however, wants more than just CBUs of hybrids shipped in. It wants hybrids assembled here. This year, the Arroyo administration had approved a zero-tariff incentive for any carmaker or assembler that would be able to bring in completely knocked down (CKD) hybrid vehicles in the country and assemble them here. This incentive is on top of all other existing tax breaks the manufacturer would receive.

The problem is, CKDs of hybrids are just not possible today.

US carmaker Ford Motors, which produces the Escape Hybrid, said that economies of scale would have to be considered before any manufacturer decides to ship in CKDs.

"The investments and manufacturing costs are relatively higher. Thus, with a small domestic market CKD investments will not be viable. Moreover, CKD tariff rates in the Philippines are already low and the resulting reduction differential will not have a significant impact," said Luie Dy Buncio, Ford Philippines' vice president for sales and marketing.

That means, insofar as Ford is concerned, it's not about to bite the hybrid bait the government is dangling.

Still, Ford Motors Philippines said it has not totally abandoned the idea of putting hybrid vehicles on local roads, and has been monitoring how the government policy on hybrids would evolve and looking for opportunities for importing hybrids on the bases of upcoming government programs.

Should the Philippine economic environment improve in the hybrids' favor, Ford assures the market that it would bring in its Escape hybrid, the first SUV hybrid in the world. The Escape hybrid is driven by a 2.3-liter in-line 4 Atkinson cycle engine and an electric motor powered by a nickel-metal-hydride battery pack.

Fuel consumption

"The fuel consumption of the Escape hybrid is somewhere between 12 and 15 km/liter, which is pretty good for a 4x4 SUV. What's good about hybrids is that the more you drive it in the city, with the stop and go traffic, the more fuel-efficient it becomes," said Dy Buncio.

Dy Buncio also revealed that it would only be a matter of time before Ford starts offering the Hybrid Escape in Asia Pacific.

A typical hybrid car being used today is a combination of a gasoline-powered engine and electric-driven motor. The general working principle is that on idle and on speeds not exceeding 35 kph, the electric motor operates. Exceeding 35 kph, the system shifts to the conventional gasoline engine. In heavy stop-and-go traffic is where the electric motor is most utilized, resulting in reduced fuel consumption and emissions.

Hybrids may be considered the transition between total dependence on oil and total independence from it. The question now is, where does the Philippines stand in this crucial juncture?

Honda Civic at Tochigi proving ground

(First of three parts)

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE WORLD HAS KNOWN THE Honda Civic under many guises, from 1972's initial "basic world car" design all the way to the hot and bothered Type R hot hatches of the 6th (1995-on) and 7th (2000-on) generations. This automobile means many things to numerous people and its universal acceptance as a strong contender in the compact car market segment is undeniable.

According to Mr. Satoshi Toshida, senior managing director and chief operating officer, Asia-Oceania Region, Honda Motor Co. Ltd., "you should understand that in many respects the Civic is Honda's flagship model," and, "for many… the Civic defines Honda." In fact as of January 2005, no less than 16,000,000 cars have been produced in a respectable 33-year run.

There can be no denying that any new evolution of this automobile has quite a lot to live up to in terms of being a fundamentally good automobile that stresses performance, both on the road and in market acceptance. There have been hits and misses along the way, not only in the Philippine market but also globally.

Quite a letdown

The current model, or 7th generation Civic, is really quite a let down. Those who have had a lot of seat time in the EF (4thG), EG (5thG) and EK (6thG) chassis can attest to this. This is a car that has always delivered an attractive, practical package that can perform. In a return to the core values that made the Civic model synonymous with fun driving, even this car's large project leader (or head designer in Honda-speak), Shinichi Takahashi, points to a return to the soul of the 6th Generation EK chassis. This is quite a revelation especially from an engineer who is also responsible for the disappointing 7th Generation.

Half a day at the Honda R&D facility, in Tochigi Prefecture has given the world media a first glimpse and drive of this model that heralds the return to performance. Three very specific tests were arrayed in front of the participants at the launch; each designed to highlight the capabilities and characteristics of the 2006 Honda Civic.

The initial task at hand was to take the 1.8-liter version on a few hot laps of the intimidating banked high-speed course. Weather conditions at the time only permitted safe driving only at speeds up to 120 kph and common sense forced many to avoid the almost 45 degree outer lane of the speedway. The engine characteristics of the all-new 1.8L i-VTEC power plant were quite satisfactory, with the Euro-IV emission compliant unit developing a decent 140PS and 174Nm of torque.

Acceleration felt close to nine seconds in a 0-100 kph sprint. Engine pull, along with the aural signature car is both linear and positive. Even with improved NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) performance, the engine's intake noises and exhaust din is still very evident, reminding the driver of the car's faculty for velocity.

Technical leaps

The completely new inline four R18A engine, as designated by the 2006 Japan Automotive Guidebook, highlights the technological leaps made by Honda in seeking to deliver a good street engine with a penchant for punch. The concept of reduced mechanical friction is the first step in the understanding of this remarkable power plant. This is achieved by finishing the engine's pistons with molybdenum disulfide dry-lubricant and the ion plating the piston rings.

The mating surfaces of the block are plateau honed to ensure a perfect seal with the engine's cylinder head and intake manifold, a unit similar in theory to the variable length system of the old B18C found on the Integra GSR. A butterfly valve changes the length of the intake runners, allowing intake air velocity to be suited to engine rpm's. Piston oil jets, usually found on only high-performance engines, are used to ensure maximum efficient lubrication.

The engine is in fact also smaller and lighter than the previous JDM 1.7-liter and world-release K20A 2.0-liter units. A narrow cam chain with a compact chain case complete with a built-in oil pump help reduce the R18A's size. Aluminum rocker arms and high strength cracked connecting rods reduce the weight of the internals' rotating mass.

High-quality plastics find their way into the materials of the head cover and the new intake manifold. An integrated cylinder head and exhaust manifold complete the weight and size savings measures. For all intents and purposes, Honda has added another "little engine that can" to their line of small displacement wonders.

The reduction of weight continues in the execution of the transmission. With many cars in the compact car class these days losing real world performance to their gearing and shifting systems, the new Civic's 5-speed automatic transmission is at the very least proficient in translating the power and torque that the engine produces. Coordination with the DBW (drive by wire) throttle system of the engine ensures affirmative acceleration in the low rpm band, while delivering a linear feeling all the way to wide open throttle.

The entire package of the autobox physically comes in at only 356mm and under the 85-kg mark. A shared placement of 4th and 5th gears and a very flat and rather small diameter torque converter help to achieve this outstanding weight. While being a capable match to the engine, one can only imagine what a properly sorted 5-speed or 6-speed manual will give this particular vehicle. While final local specifications are not yet public, the availability of a manual is something many, including yours truly, hope for in earnest.

Toyota's inexorable march to the top

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

TOKYO—THE RESONATING BUZZ IN THIS city of kimonos, suchis and sashimis is about Toyota becoming No. 1 carmaker in the world sooner than expected.

That's what's being talked about here these days—from nearby Makuhari Messe, venue of the 39th Tokyo Motor Show in Chiba Prefecture, to Akasaka, Roppongi and Ginza, the heart of the globe's most expensive city.

Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus, the Deadly Duo of Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) that reined in a star-studded delegation of 14 Filipino journalists to the show, could only smile that toothy smile of theirs each time the hotter-than-labuyo topic is brought up. And star-studded because James Deakin, Botchi Santos and Allan Madrilejos were aboard.

Aside from Deakin (Star), Santos (Top Gear) and Madrilejos (FHM), the other Filipino journalists present here were Raul Marcelo (INQUIRER), Anjo Perez (Bulletin), Brian Afuang (Times), Tito Hermoso (C! Magazine), Jen Bleza (Motoring Today/Auto Focus), Lorie Cabanes (Bulletin), Ronald delos Reyes (Auto Review), Aida Sevilla Mendoza (INQUIRER), Ramon Tomeldan (Standard), Mike Potenciano (Speed) and myself.

The talk about Toyota hopping from No. 2 to world No. 1 reached its crescendo at the magnificent, history-laden Imperial Hotel during the much-awaited mother of all dinners on Oct. 20 where nearly 500 motoring journalists from around the world rubbed elbows with Toyota Motor Corp.'s Main Men.

And who are currently the Main Men of Asia's No. 1 carmaker and the soon-to-be No. 1 carmaker in the world?

There's several of them but three of them struck me as TMC's go-to-guys on the Asian car scene.

One is Dato Akira Okabe, TMC's senior managing director for Asia, Oceania and Middle East Operations Group and who is a member of the all-powerful TMC board.

Another is Akio Toyoda, TMC's no-nonsense executive vice president and who is also a member of the TMC board.

And, of course, the Main Man himself—Katsuaki Watanabe, the suave and dapper TMC president.

The group and I had the rare privilege of chatting with them during breaks of that memorable stand-up, business suit-only dinner of a kilometric list of international cuisine including shark fin soup in linguini noodles, roasted lamb, steamed rock lobster as big as Yao Ming's foot, and an assortment of tongue-melting sashimis and shimmering sushis, not to mention that world-famed Kobe beef done rare.

But to me, the evening's main dish was the audience with Watanabe, Toyoda and Okabe.

They all had succulent answers to even the most acid-laden questions such as "Do you see Toyota becoming No. 1 in the world shortly?"

We hammered home that question real hard in lieu of the turbulent, if not disastrous, state both GM and Ford are in right now. GM suffered a staggering US$1.6-billion third quarter loss and Ford US$284-million third quarter loss despite huge discounts worldwide.

To stop the bleeding, GM plans to slash health care benefits and Ford to impose massive plants closures. Good luck!

Amid this bleak backdrop is Toyota's seemingly inexorable march toward being No. 1 in the world like Tiger Woods is to golf.

But nonetheless, listen to the three.

"To be No. 1 is relative," said Okabe-san. "We might be No. 1 in quality and volume of sales, but we might be a failure in other aspects of the business. That's why to be No. 1 is relative."

From Toyoda-san, the grandson of the Toyota founder: "Only our customers worldwide have the right to say if we are truly No. 1 in the world."

And finally, from Watanabe-san: "If we hit our target of 15 percent share of the world market and that'd make us No. 1, then No. 1 we are."

I guess TMP president Nobuharu Tabata has no problem whatsoever about who is boss around here. Toyota has scored a Triple Crown, a Grand Slam if you wish, the last three years in the Philippines. If that's not being No. 1 in the Philippines, what is?

Tabata-san only knew too well about how to be No. 1 and, perhaps, it'd matter if Watanabe-san would have a chat with him, too.

Meanwhile, how I wish I could clash glasses with Tabata-san again—for sake's sakes. That could perhaps afford me the chance to tell Tabata-san, TMP's Main Man, more about my conversation with Watanabe-san, TMC's Main Man.

Kampai!

* * *

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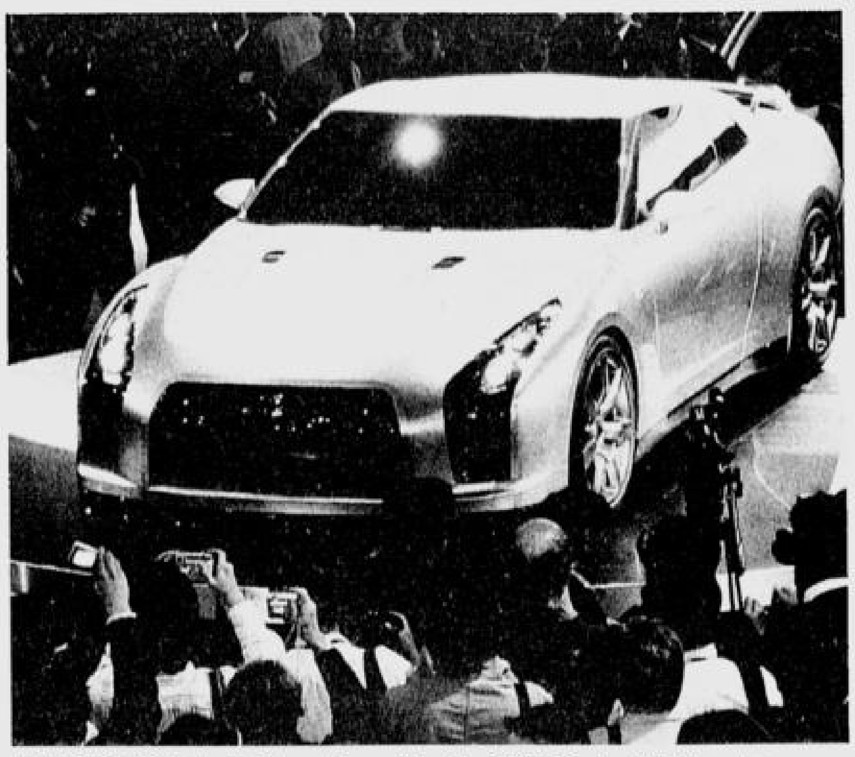
Looking at Nissan's future

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban


EVEN HOURS after its formal unveiling, the GT-R Proto still attracts a sizable crowd of motoring journalists.

WE ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD to futuristic concept cars that show up in Japan every two years but the most anticipated at the 39th Tokyo Motor Show (at least for us) was the unveiling of Nissan GTR Proto as well as what Nissan Motor Co. CEO Carlos Ghosn will say.

"Three weeks ago we declared the Nissan revival complete by delivering our third and final Nissan 180 commitment: 1 million additional sales. Today we will show you a company in full shift mode. Sustainable, long-term growth is being driven by a new generation of products that you will recognize as distinctly Nissan," announced Ghosn, the troubleshooter charged with reviving Nissan Motor and which, as a result, became a corporate icon in Japan.

In front of the largest crowd at any press conference at this year's motor show, Nissan showed a close-to-production concept of the next Nissan supercoupé, dubbed to succeed the popular Skyline GT-R sports car, which ceased production in August 2002.

Loaded

Ghosn hinted the revived sports car will be loaded with a variety of high-tech features including think active suspension, computer-aided traction and steering systems.

A couple of Nissan insiders even said the final production version, due to market two years from now, will boast a twin-turbo V-6 with a displacement between 3.5 and 3.8 liters and horsepower 450 and up.

Said Ghosn: "This is just a taste of what we have to offer in the future. Much more is taking shape in a product pipeline that now extends into the next decade. There is an air of highly focused excitement at Nissan as we develop products that deliver innovation, interior quality and driving pleasure. But innovation is never confused with novelty. We focus on real-world challenges and concerns—with safety and the environment always front-of-mind."

Eagerly awaited

Nissan's eagerly-awaited GT-R sports car has come a long way since Ghosn promised to put it back into production during the 2001 Tokyo Motor Show.

The design of the GT-R Proto expresses pure GT-R heritage that began in 1969 with the launch of the first model PGC10 that continued through 1999 with the R34.

From its original roots as a pure-bred Japanese performance car, the new GT-R will now be a car sold globally, announced Ghosn in recognizing the supercoupé's ability to compete with the very best in the world.

Specific body style

He added that for the first time in its history, the new GT-R will be designed as a specific body style, and not derived from a sedan.

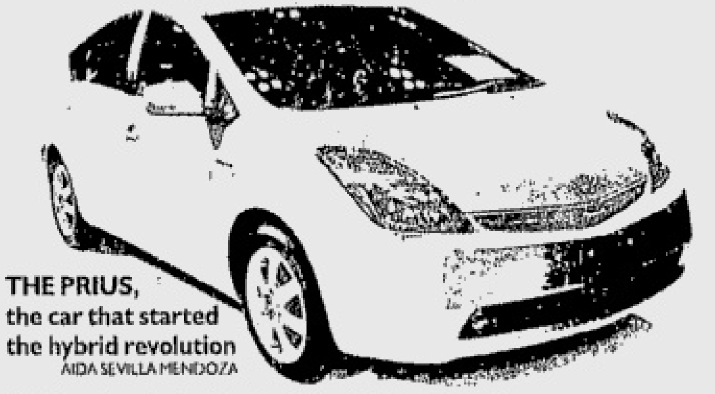
"If the Z (referring to the Nissan roadster) was the symbol of Nissan's recovery, the GT-R will be seen as the icon for Nissan's indisputable, vibrant health," said Ghosn.

The motor show at Japan's largest convention hall in Chiba Prefecture opened for the media ahead of the two-week run for the public from Oct. 21 to Nov. 6.

Its organizer, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association expects 1.5 million people to visit the exhibition.

GHOSN promises that the GT-R Proto is just a taste of what Nissan has to offer in the future.

Trying to catch up with Toyota


THE PRIUS, the car that started the hybrid revolution
AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AT THE PRESS PREVIEW OF THE TOKYO Motor Show last week, I got the impression that car manufacturers, particularly Detroit's Big Three, were trying to catch up with Toyota. Tokyo's biannual exhibit of passenger cars and motorcycles, the 39th in a span of 50 years, showcases futuristic concept cars and the latest production models of 38 automakers from 14 countries around the world. About 1.5 million visitors are expected during the 16 days of the show to admire 571 exhibited vehicles, 126 of which will be seen in Japan for the first time while another 79 will make their global debut.

This was the eighth time I attended the Tokyo Motor Show and I remember that in 1995, the centerpiece of Toyota's pavilion was a compact-sized concept car called the Prius, which was powered by an environment-friendly, ultra fuel-efficient hybrid gasoline-electric engine. Many people in the industry, however, doubted the commercial potential of the Prius.

Scrambling

Now, 10 years later, with fuel prices skyrocketing and the oil supply running out, other carmakers are scrambling to catch up with Toyota in the hybrid car market. Sales of the Prius, which was launched in the United States in 1997 as the first commercially produced hybrid car, doubled in the United States this year from 2004, equaling if not surpassing the cumulative worldwide sales (319,000) of Toyota's 10 hybrid models in 2004. Next year, Toyota plans to produce 400,000 Prius units to meet the growing demand and by 2011, all Toyota vehicles will be offered in hybrid versions—which means Toyota will be selling a million hybrids a year in the next decade.

In contrast, Ford Motor Co., which Toyota has overtaken as the world's second largest automaker, will annually produce only 250,000 hybrid versions of its production models by 2010, using hybrid technology under license from Toyota. Last Thursday, Ford posted a $284 million third-quarter loss, three days after General Motors reported a $1.6-billion loss in the same period although these setbacks are due to other factors, not only to their lagging behind in hybrids. While GM did exhibit fuel cell cars at the Tokyo Motor Show, it expects to market a new hybrid model only in 2007. A GM vice president admitted to The Asahi Shimbun that GM made a mistake when it did not switch to hybrid cars in the mid-1990s after its electric cars failed to sell because of the long time required for charging.

Suppliers

As a result of this lack of vision, America's auto-making giants now have to lease or buy hybrid technology from Toyota and buy hybrid parts from Japanese suppliers that Toyota virtually controls as an investor and/or buyer. Much to their chagrin, Toyota is consolidating its leadership in hybrids not only by plowing some of its record $10.5 billion in profits this year into the development of new fuel-saving technologies, but also by increasing its stake in two suppliers of specialized batteries for hybrid cars: Panasonic EV Energy and Fuji Heavy Industries, which makes not only Subaru cars but also a lithium-ion battery that will play a vital role in future hybrid cars. Ironically, Toyota bought its 8.7 percent holding in Fuji from GM.

Toyota also owns 27 percent of Aisin Seiki Co., which aside from Toyota, supplies parts to Ford, GM, Nissan and other automakers. Since there are no US hybrid-component , manufacturers, the Big Three are finding it hard getting the volume they want. But Toyota denies holding back on hybrid parts to other automakers, pointing out that it makes every hybrid component itself with the exception of the battery and the converter-inverter device. Japan's largest carmaker has long cultivated close ties with its suppliers, investing in them and keeping much of its research and parts production within its own group of companies.

Masterful

The New York Times reported that Honda's top marketing executive in the United States acknowledged two weeks ago that "Toyota has done a masterful job of getting the car out there at the right time, of scooping the industry." Honda's Insight is a hybrid pioneer like the Prius but the Prius—the newest iteration of which gets 25.3 km per liter in the city and 21.6 km per liter on the highway—remains the market leader.

Which brings us to the big question: When will Toyota bring the Prius to Manila? Since Toyota has begun producing the Prius in China, will it be exported eventually to Southeast Asian markets like the Philippines? I managed to pop these questions to Akira Okabe, senior managing director of the Asia, Oceania and Middle East Operations Group although he was surrounded by Thai motoring journalists at the formal press dinner with top Toyota executives in the Imperial Hotel last Thursday.

Okabe-san's answer: The Prius will be sold in Manila when the necessary infrastructure and a strong market base for it are in place. Since, apart from this, the Prius costs as much as US$5,000 more than conventionally powered cars, its arrival here appears, sadly enough, to be a long way down the road.

(Next week: Ecology and emotion at the Tokyo Motor Show)

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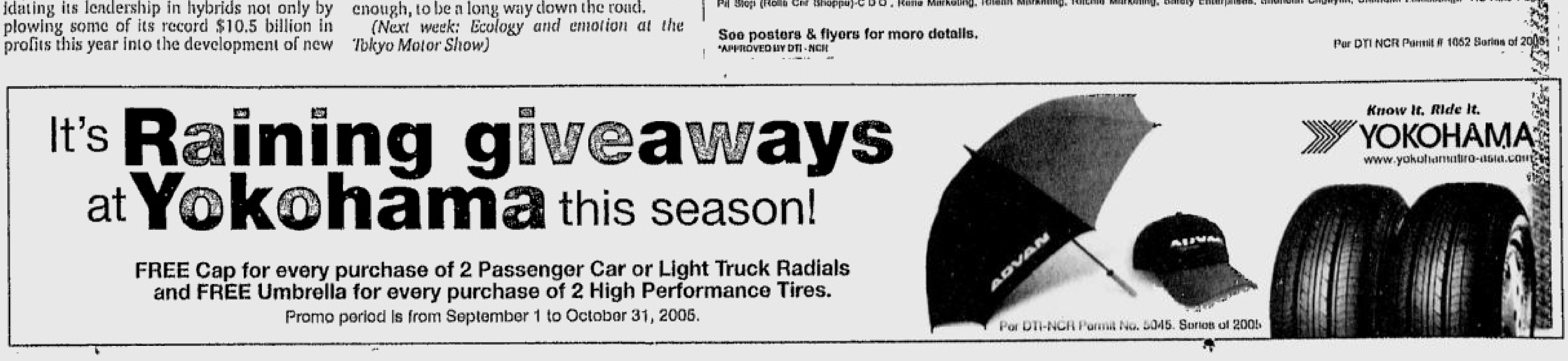
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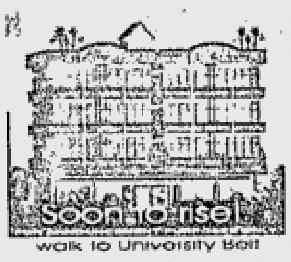

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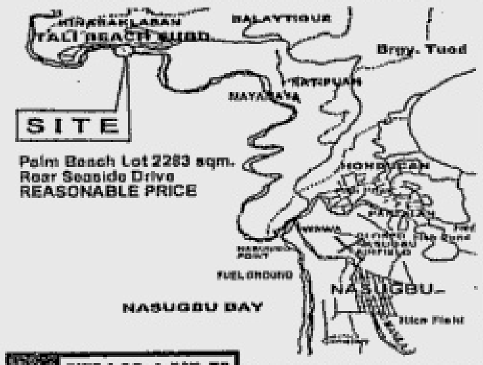

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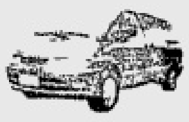

For more info, pls. Contact
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1% w/out taking car 6315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of APRIL & MAY 2005 on NOV. 16, 2005 at 2pm. J. Lanuza Auctioneer (PDI - OCT. 26, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Teodora C. Rusia has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. # 111, Page # 23, Book #488, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Lucila M. Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City (PDI-Oct. 26, Nov. 2 & 9 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Ruben Coroza Jordan has been settled by their heirs with an extrajudicial settlement with quitclaims as per Doc. 37, Page 8, Book II, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Lino N. Agpoon of Quezon City (PDI-Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Metropolitan Club Inc. Stock Certificate No. B-1498 Member- ship No. R-0683 in the name of Chang Jin Chong. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Pls. send your resume @ LC Builders & Developers, Inc., 1229 Apolonia St., Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 FAX NO.: (632) 712-1110 E-MAIL: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Purified Water from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006
(15,600 containers of 5-gallons each)

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P500,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *supply and delivery of 15,600 containers of 5-gallons each purified water from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006*.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of 15,600 containers of 5-gallons each purified water from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006*. Period of coverage is January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on November 23, 2005* from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent 1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 23, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity – *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons – *Jose D. Chua/ Violeta S. Villarama*
Address – *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. – *(632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520*
e-mail address – *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. – *(632) 712-0454*
Website – *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the fabrication and delivery of one (1) unit feedmill mixer and hammermill with an Approved Budget of the Contract of three million pesos, Philippine currency (PhP3,000,000.00).
2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, November 3, 2005 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City.
3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from October 25 to November 10, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
4. Deadline for the submission of bids shall be on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin city. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives.
5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the city of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
7. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) **CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5275

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

18" & 24" CS Pipes under FGJ 50923
Approved Budget – PHP 6,110,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Harold T. Fontilles** starting October 26, 2005, from 9.30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 3, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Traffic Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department office Wall Clock Time) of November 17, 2005** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee l

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office 6
Jaro, Iloilo City

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05
Revised on: July 29, 2004

RO6-2005-004
Installation of Continuous Ridge Vent. of Whse. B
Banga, Aklan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Region 6 through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Installation of Continuous Ridge Ventilator of Warehouse B
Location	Banga, Aklan
Brief Description	Fabrication and Installation of Ridge Air Ventilator of Warehouse B
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Three Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Pesos & 71/100 (P327,300.71)
Contract Duration	30 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Oct. 19-31, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Nov. 2-9, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 2-9, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 11, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 11-18, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 9, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Dec. 21, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at National Food Authority, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the NFA, Region 6 Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) to the NFA, Region 6 Cashier.

The NFA, Region 6, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The *National Food Authority, Region 6* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
ARD/Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 19 & 26, 2005)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ

City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 local 158

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract	: Construction of Rubberized Oval for the Villareal Stadium
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: P20,000,000.00
Source of Fund	: General Fund

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Starting of submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility	Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2005
2. Issuance of Bid documents	Nov. 08, 2005
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 25, 2005
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 6, 2005

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to the PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **DANTE B. BERMEJO**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI--Oct. 26 & Nov. 3, 2005)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT

263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-6803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project	Supply and Delivery of Two (2) Units Slightly Used Generator Sets
Location	Puerto Princesa City Water District
Brief Description	1 Lot, 2 units slightly used Identical Generating Set; 90 KVA; 440/220 VAC; 3Ø; 4 wire
Approved Budget For the Contract	One Million Eight Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Pesos (Php 1,832,000.00)
Delivery Period	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27 - November 3, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 7, 2005, 1:30 PM PPCWD Board Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	November 21, 2005, 1:30 PM PPCWD Board Room
4. Opening of Bids	November 21, 2005, 1:30 PM PPCWD Board Room

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (P1,800.00) to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. VICENTE D. ABREA**
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov 2, 2005)

NMC Nation Manpower Corporation

Unit 305 3/F AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
(located 3 buildings away from Holiday Inn at the back of Robinsons Galleria)
POEA LICENSE NO: POEA-624-LB-070904-R
Tel. Nos. (632) 632-9814 / 632-9524 Fax. No. (632) 634-2501
Email: nmc82002@yahoo.com, nationmanpower@pldtdsl.net
Cellular Nos. 0917-2703733 / 0919-5392406

BRUNEI - LE' TAJ RESTAURANT

POEA Registration No. 10041581

A) 10 ITALIAN PIZZA AND PASTA CHEFS
B) 5 PASTRY / CAKE CHEFS
Qualifications:
- Min. 4 years experience in the relevant field. Could converse confidently in English.

C) 10 WAITRESS (ITALIAN AND WESTERN FOOD RESTAURANT)

D) 10 SERVICE CREW (FAST FOOD RESTAURANT)
Qualifications:
- Min. 1 year experience in the relevant field. Could converse confidently in English.

E) 5 FAST FOOD DELIVERY DRIVERS
- Must hold a valid motorcycle and car driving license. English conversant and must be presentable.

F) 5 CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE PLAY
Qualifications:
- Female; minimum 2 years experience working with children between the ages of 2 and 8 years old.
- Preferably, with a valid basic First Aid certificate. Must be pleasant and friendly.
- Could converse confidently in English. Teachers graduate are most preferred.

INTERVIEW DATES : OCTOBER 28-30 BY EMPLOYER

QATAR - CLEOPATRA JEWELLERY

A) 3 JEWELLERY DESIGNER/MERCHANDISE DISPLAYER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- Must be able to do jewelry designs and display

QATAR - DECORATION CENTRE

A) 5 FURNITURE PAINTERS
B) 5 UPHOLSTERS
C) 5 INTERIOR DESIGNER
D) 5 TENT INSTALLER
E) 5 CARPENTER
F) 5 CURTAIN MAKER
Qualifications:
- Age - 25 to 40 years old and must speak and understand English.
- Must have experience working in the Gulf area and have full knowledge on the respective job.
- Knowledge in decoration interior & exterior designs.

VISIT US FOR MORE DETAILS.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY! NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED!

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Manila

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Supply/Delivery of Polyethylene (plastic) Bags/ Containers

1. The National Food Authority, National Capital Region, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila, through the Approved Corporate Budget for Calendar Year 2005, intends to apply the sum of **SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED PESOS (P759,200.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply/delivery of polyethylene (plastic) bags/containers. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The National Food Authority - National Capital Region invites all interested licensed manufacturers of polyethylene (plastic) bags/containers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of 1,460,000 pieces of polyethylene (plastic) bags/containers with the following specifications:

MATERIAL	CAPACITY	SIZE (Inches)	MARKINGS
LDPE	One (1) kilogram	6x10 x .003	Plain

The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
1. Issuance of Application / Requirements for eligibility & to bid	October 26 - November 4, 2005 (From 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)
2. Deadline Issuance of Application/Requirements	November 4, 2005, 5:00 P.M.
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	November 2, 2005, 10:00 A.M.
4. Bidding Proper	November 14, 2005, 9:00 A.M.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NFA-NCR Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the prospective Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P500.00. The method of payment will be in Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received pesonally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The National Food Authority, National Capital Region, reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Food Authority - National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila
Telephone No. 563-94-37
Fax No. 563-94-65

(Sgd.) Atty. **BASILIDES TACO**
Asst. Regional Director/
Chairman RBAC NFA-NCR

(PDI--Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION FOR LEASE

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) is inviting offers for lease by way of Individual Sealed Bids, real property (land) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Office of the Vice President, Fund Management Group, Rm. 407, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning October 26, 2005.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on November 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m., Rm 602, 6th Floor, Multi Purpose Hall, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

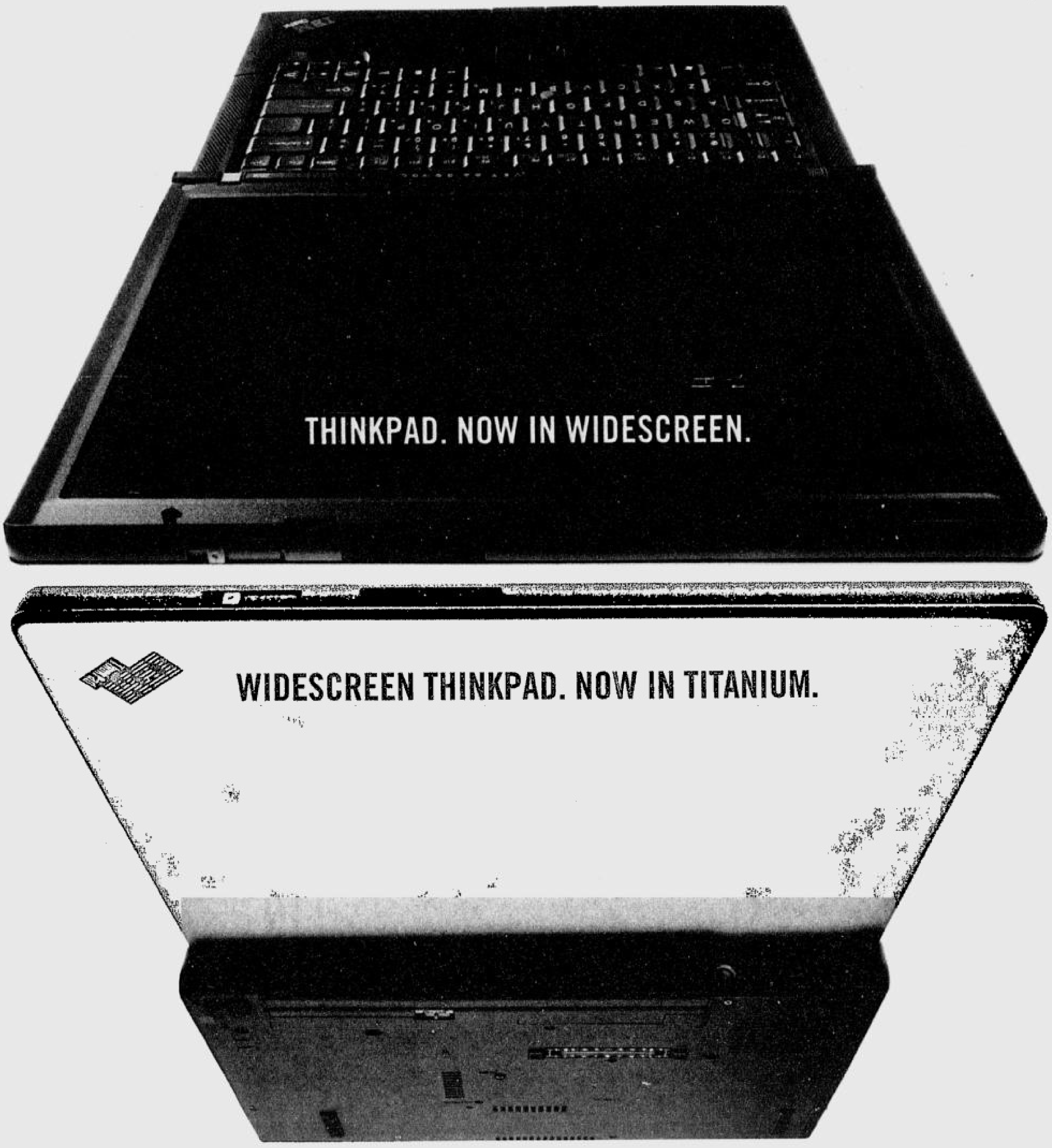
The Home Development Mutual Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the HDMF. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Rommel S. Bayan at 848-82-62 or visit our Corporate website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or email us at jsbayan@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

EMMA LINDA B. FARIA
SVP-Technical Support

(PDI--Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

ThinkPad recommends Windows® XP Professional.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Bernanke effect lifts shares in global trade

TRADERS work on the floor of the New York Stock. The market rose after White House economist Ben Bernanke was nominated by US President George W. Bush as the next Federal Reserve chairman to replace Alan Greenspan. AFP

SINGAPORE—WORLD STOCK MARKETS yesterday jumped on the nomination of White House economic adviser Ben Bernanke as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Tokyo's Nikkei average was up 1.59 percent at 0155 GMT on Tuesday while Seoul's KOSPI, given an additional lift by strong economic growth data, was up 0.9 percent.

Toru Otsuka, deputy manager of investment information at Mizuho Investors Securities, said investors welcomed Bernanke's nomination to succeed Alan Greenspan in January.

"First of all, he is seen as following the same path as Greenspan, so it is likely that US monetary policy will remain unchanged," he said. "Another reason is that a successor was nominated earlier than expected, so that is a positive surprise. Thirdly, since he is a leading researcher of deflation, there are expectations that he won't take extreme tightening measures."

On Wall Street, blue chips had posted their biggest gains in six months, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average up 1.66 percent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 1.61 percent.

The dollar ended well above its lows in New York and held on to gains in Asian trade, with some traders saying the Bernanke news provided a reason to cover short dollar positions.

"Bernanke's nomination puts a dollar risk out of the way, so it may become easier to buy back the dollar today," said Mitsuru Sahara, senior vice president of currency trading at UFJ Bank.

The dollar traded around 115.50 yen, compared with 115.45 yen in late New York on Monday, when it had fallen as low as 115.05 yen.

The euro slipped 0.2 percent to $1.1955, edging closer to a three-month low of $1.1875 hit last week.

Crude oil prices steadied after dropping when Hurricane Wilma missed U.S. oil rigs and platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crude for December delivery on the NYMEX exchange was down two cents from the New York close at $60.30 a barrel. *Reuters*

China economy to expand at slower rate in 2006-2010

SHANGHAI, CHINA—CHINA'S URBAN spending on construction, factory equipment and other fixed assets rose at its fastest pace so far this year in September, the government yesterday reported.

But the country's top economic planner had forecast slower growth in years to come.

Growth in the country's gross domestic product should average 7.5 percent in 2006-2010, compared with 8.8 percent growth for 2000-2005, Ma Kai, minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in a speech carried in state media.

China's economy grew 9.5 percent in both 2003 and 2004 and expanded at a robust pace of 9.4 percent in the first nine months of this year.

Although so far there are scant signs of slowdown, Ma said growth would be more moderate over the next five years.

"Based on supply and demand analysis, it is possible to realize a target of 7.5 percent (average annual growth), which would be stable compared to the estimated 8.8 percent average annual growth" in 2000-2005, Ma said.

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that fast growth in investments in coal and railways contributed to the 29.4 percent year-on-year increase in spending on construction, factory equipment and other fixed assets in September.

It was the fastest growth rate so far for this year. In August, such spending rose 28.5 percent year-on-year.

Urban spending on fixed assets such as property development, construction of roads and other infrastructure and factory equipment is China's main benchmark for capital investment, a key indicator for future economic trends.

In the first nine months of this year, investments in fixed assets rose 26.1 percent over the same period of 2004 to 5.7 trillion yuan (US$703.7 billion). *AP*

Backer . . .

From page B1

economics department before joining the Fed Board, caught financial market attention when he voiced concern over deflation risks in late 2002 and laid out a number of unusual options the Fed could use to combat that threat.

While many inflation-targeting proponents are viewed as inflation "hawks," Bernanke's focus on the dangers of deflation while at the Fed makes him tough to pigeonhole, analysts said.

"He's eminently reasonable. He'll react to the situation, but he'll maintain a long-term focus on price stability," said Mark Gertler, chair of the economics department at New York University and a longtime Bernanke associate. He said Fed policy under Bernanke would likely be very similar to policy under Greenspan.

Bernanke advocated the use of forward-looking statements in the Fed's interest rate announcements, arguing details on how the central bank thought policy would evolve could influence the long-term borrowing costs it does not directly control.

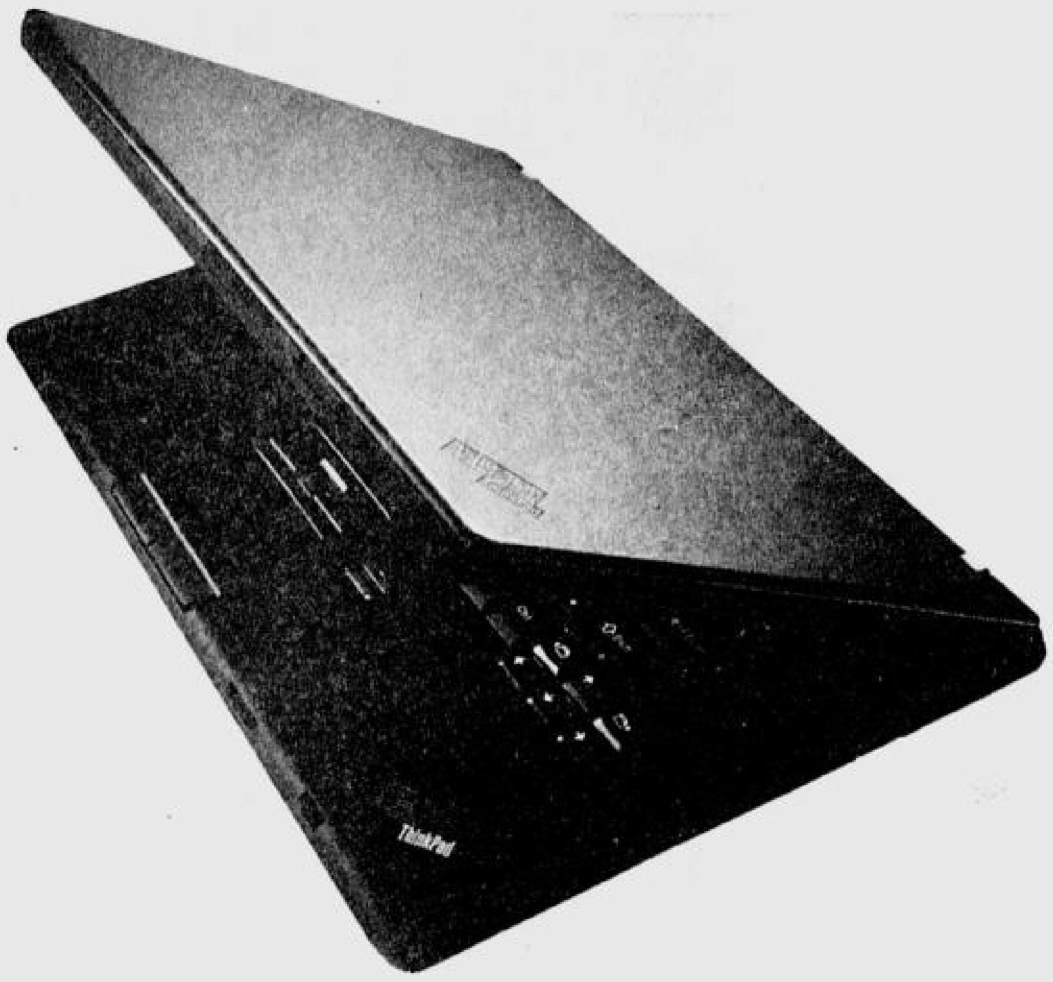
Earlier this year, Bernanke said a "glut" of foreign saving lay behind the unusually low level of bond yields and the record gap in the US current account, an argument that quickly became touchstone in a debate among economists over global economic imbalances. In the same vein, he expressed optimism that global imbalances could be resolved without crisis.

Like Greenspan, he has voiced support for efforts to toughen regulation of mortgage-market giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and he believes the Fed is better off focusing on the broad economy than trying to sway asset prices even in the face of building bubbles.

"Certainly there is no way to direct the effects of monetary policy at a single class of assets while leaving other financial markets and the broader economy untouched. One might as well try to perform brain surgery with a sledgehammer," Bernanke said in October 2002.

In addition, he has said the Fed should allow banks to fail, except when the wider financial system is in peril.

Bernanke, who was born Dec. 13, 1953, and is married with two children, received his bachelor's degree from Harvard and his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Reuters*



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Messages

My warmest congratulations to the Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa on their Grand Opening.

Your establishment would surely boost our country's growing tourism industry particularly in the beautiful city of Cebu. To the men and women who work long and hard to make Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa a reality—my commendations. You epitomize the true spirit of the Filipino.

To the management team—Hilton International—as my dear father welcomed you to the Philippines—It's good to have you back. You will surely be rewarded for your faith in the Philippines and the Filipinos.

I have no doubt that this world-class Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa will help showcase the beauty, warmth and genuine hospitality of the Filipinos.

Again, Congratulations and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THE WARM tropical waters, fine sand coconut-rimmed beaches and lush greenery make the island of Mactan the mellow setting for relaxation of body and enrichment of soul.

In Mactan and nearby Cebu, history is never far away. The island has much to remind the visitor—through the allure of colonial structures and surviving witnesses of a colorful and eventful past. A past that is continually merging with the present as easily as the sea fades into the horizon.

There's yet another face of these islands of many surprises and discoveries. It could be the handmade guitars, quality shell craft, scrumptious food, trendy stores, modern amenities and the graciousness, industriousness and resilience of the Cebuanos.

Congratulations to Hilton International for realizing the islands' charisma and meeting the challenges for its Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa in Mactan.

Mabuhay!

JOSEPH DURANO
Secretary of Tourism

The grand opening of the Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa in Mactan highlights Cebu's role as the tourism hub of the Philippines today.

We are happy that on this colorful, historical and energetic island of Mactan, we are proving once again that Cebu is that one bright spot—that beacon of hope —in our present urgent, troubled times.

By building this new landmark, Goldland Phils. Corp and the Hilton International Group, responded positively to Cebu's message of hope. We wish you great success, and a long and prosperous future, on this one beautiful province of Cebu.

Mabuhay!

GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA
Governor
Province of Cebu

Greetings from the City Government of Lapu-Lapu!

In line with its vision of becoming a true haven for tourists and residents alike, as well as advance its global competitiveness, the City welcomes Hilton Cebu and Resort & Spa to its family of business institutions and investors that contribute to the local economy and culture.

May this occasion of your Grand Opening lead to exciting and productive years for you in the hotel business, and encourage others to venture forth with creativity, diligence, and determination. Let no difficulty, complexity, or adversity stop you from doing what you are expected to do and what we know you are capable of—which is to provide your clientele with excellent service and amenities, as well as promote adherence to international standards. Conversely, I am enjoining you to support the City's programs and goals by keeping in mind the welfare of the Oponganons who have welcomed you to this City. Together, we can transform Lapu-Lapu City into a more prosperous and pleasantly livable place for everyone to appreciate and care for.

The city is one with you as you strive for excellence in your field and in your relations with the community at large.

Congratulations and wishing you immense success!

ARTURO O. RADAZA
City Mayor
City of Lapu-Lapu

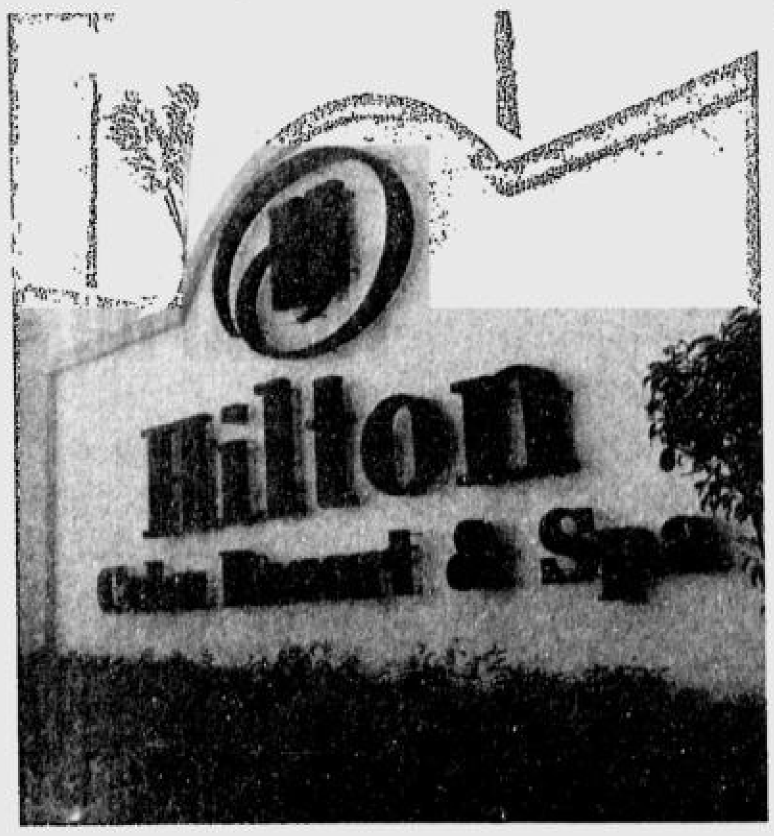
CONGRATULATIONS to the Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa on their Grand Opening Celebrations this October 26-27.

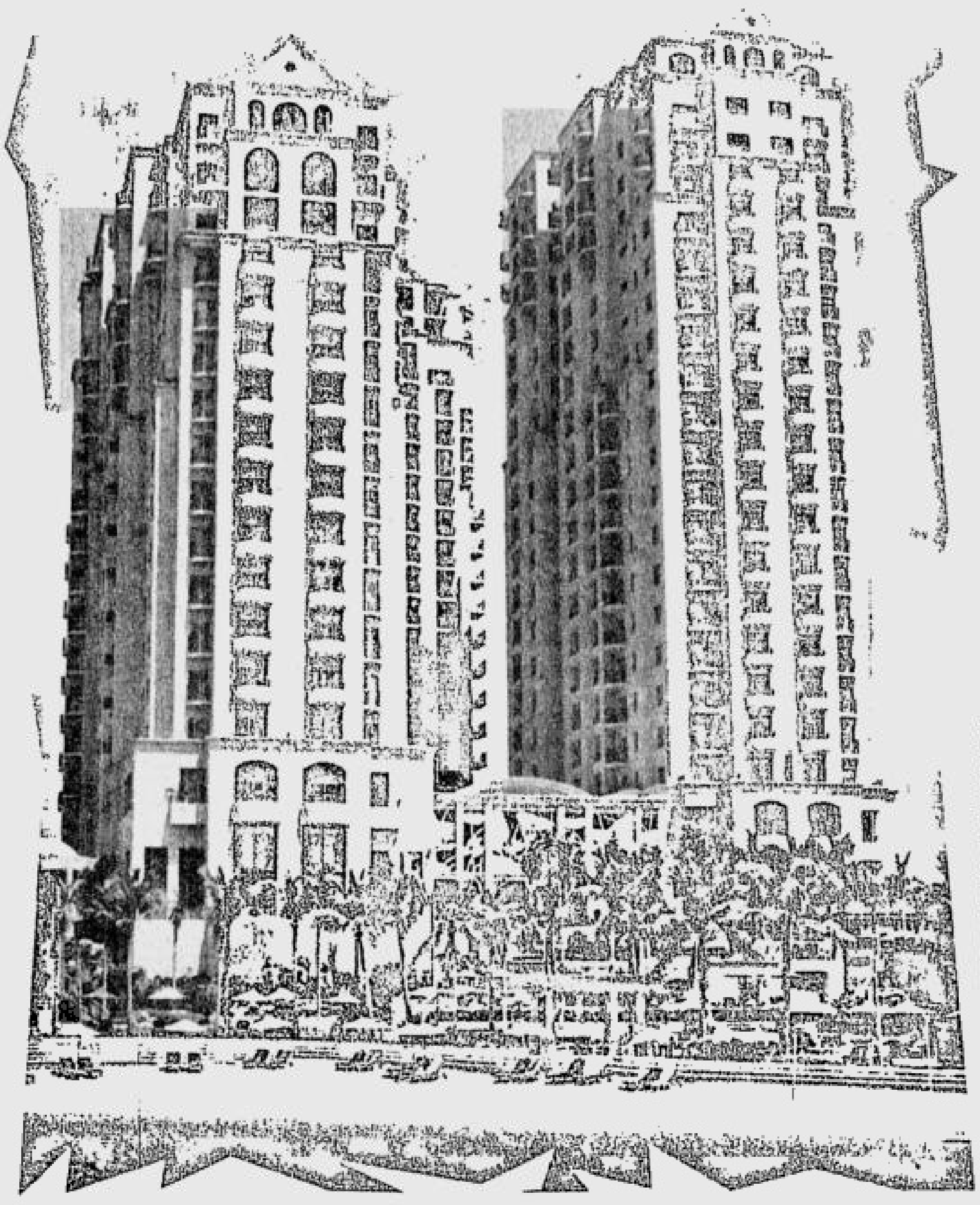
This is a needed jewel for Cebu, and, hopefully, more of you will play a very active role in making Cebu a top international destination.

As I embrace you as Cebu's very own testament of dreams, hopes and aspirations, I urge you to do your very best in projecting and promoting not only your resort, but also Cebu to the international market. I am certain that we will be proud of you.

Once again, my congratulations and I wish you all the success.

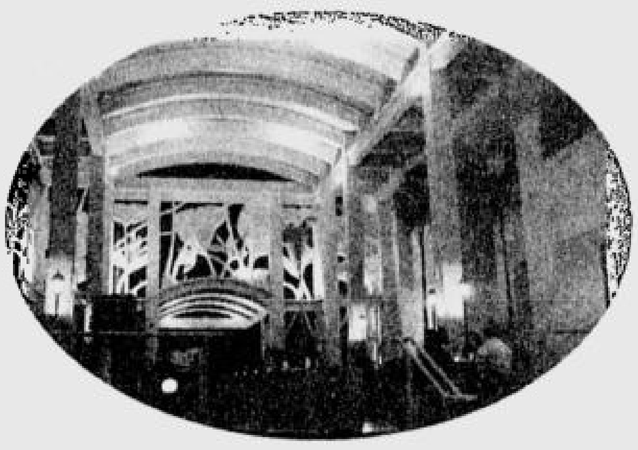
Tommy Osmeña
TOMAS R. OSMEÑA
Mayor
City of Cebu





The resort is within a complex of three post-modern buildings in coral pink colors with rooftop painted in murano blue that includes both residential condominiums and service apartments

'Suite Sophisticate' at Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa



Hilton returns to Philippine shores with the grand launching of its latest Worldwide Resort on tropical Mactan Island in Cebu. The Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa is a French Mediterranean-inspired upscale resort that exudes luxury and relaxation

HILTON INTERNATIONAL UNVEILS a new Worldwide Resort on tropical Mactan Island in Cebu. The Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa is an upscale resort with a French-Mediterranean flavor that exudes luxury and relaxation. From uncompromising guest comforts to good tasting food outlets, it raises the bar for service and standards in the island.

The resort comprises of 246 guestrooms including 74 one and two bedroom suites. Guestrooms are minimalist in design yet cozy with shades of earth tone colors and feature balcony views.

Bathrooms have European bathtubs with separate showers. Rooms are fitted with 25" flatscreen TVs, DVD players, hi-speed Internet access, in-room safe, mini-bar and individually controlled air conditioning. There are three Executive Floors and an Executive Floor Club Lounge.

The innovative Spa suites' design is minimalist Zen-inspired Art deco, with lots of open spaces. Living and bedroom areas are separate and the private balconies have ocean views.

A lot has gone into making guest comfort a premium. A unique key element of the bathroom is an original Jacuzzi brand Spa bath, the first hotel installation of this world-famous brand in the Philippines.

Beds are oversized stuffed with square down feather pillows; cotton towels are woven 'Jacquard' style to be more absorbent. To top it all, spa treatments with a variety of relaxing, stimulating or beautifying aromatherapy bath salts and essential oils to stimulate mind, body and spirit are available right in the privacy of the suites. Just inform your spa butler for the service.

All Spa Suite guests enjoy the service of a dedicated Spa Butler whose duties include timely, daily preparation of the Spa bath in accordance to the guest's request, the scheduling/organization of body treatments, and the ordering of food and beverages.

Restaurants and bars are designed by the renowned Dan Q. Kwan of TriBeCa Asia and showcase a collection of chic interiors and innovative designs punctuated by a diverse menu rich in the finest traditions of international food cultures.

Seas Restaurant is a chic specialty restaurant featuring local and international seafood specialties with a balanced a 'la carte menu. It showcases the seafood market concept with an emphasis on freshness and versatility.

Vanilla Beach Café is the resort's all-day dining restaurant, casual-chic 1950s and '60s beach feels with retro-colonial design and vanilla colored walls. Fare is an influence of regional, Mediterranean and Filipino cuisine highlighted by our Chef's "Signature Dishes."

Manny O's Wine & Tapas is perched on the sea at the tip of a marina. It offers a spectacular view of the turquoise sea and outlying islands with a wind swept al fresco deck and roof to ceiling bay windows. Manny O's features regular happy hours and a smorgasbord of "Food for sharing" consisting of platters of tasty Tapas served at your table.

Pink and breezy, set amidst the live foliage and brisk wind from the sea, the **Pink Lobby** is a lobby lounge and bar serving savories, snacks, java, tea and lifestyle beverages along with signature Pink cocktails mixed at the bar.

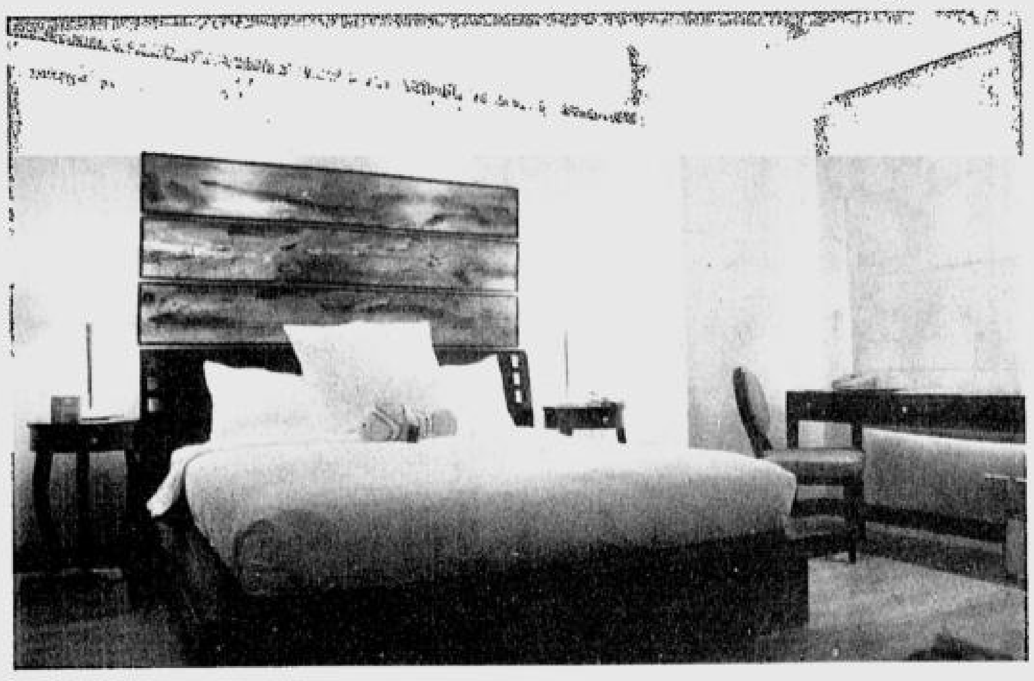
The **Sapphire Pool Bar** overlooks the resort's infinity swimming pool and provides for the perfect place to sip a cool drink or enjoy a light snack.

While intimacy and relaxation are the theme for the resort, there are also plenty of activities for the action-minded. Leisure activities include windsurfing, jet skiing, diving and snorkeling. The Leisure center has a well-equipped gym steam room, aerobics and tennis court.

For the ultimate relaxation, surrender to the pampering at The Spa with its Thai-inspired massages and treatments to stimulate body, mind and soul.

The intimate and relaxed surrounding also host meetings and conference facilities with 500 square meters of dedicated space for all manner and events and celebrations. An open air wedding gazebo at the garden on the threshold of the beach is a perfect wedding venue. The scenery and light breeze combines for a fitting ambiance to a relaxed solemn celebration.

The resort is just 10 minutes from Mactan International Airport and 30 minutes from cosmopolitan Cebu City with its vibrant nightlife, extensive shopping and 24-hour casinos.



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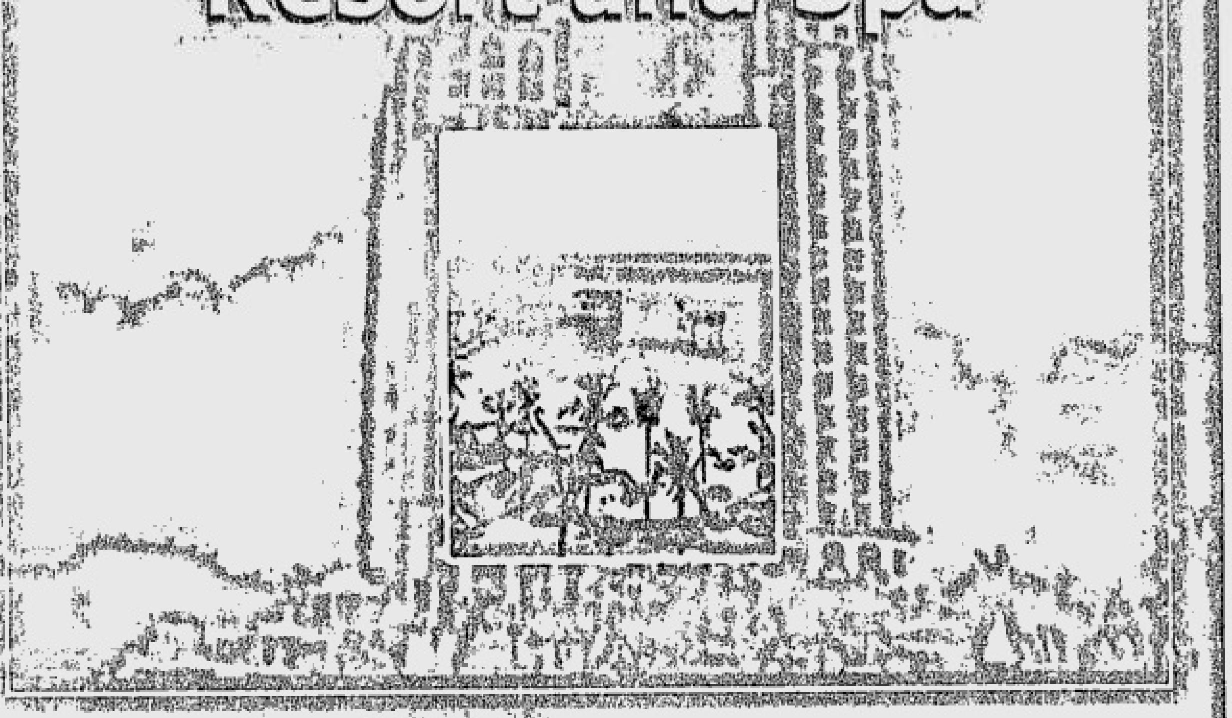

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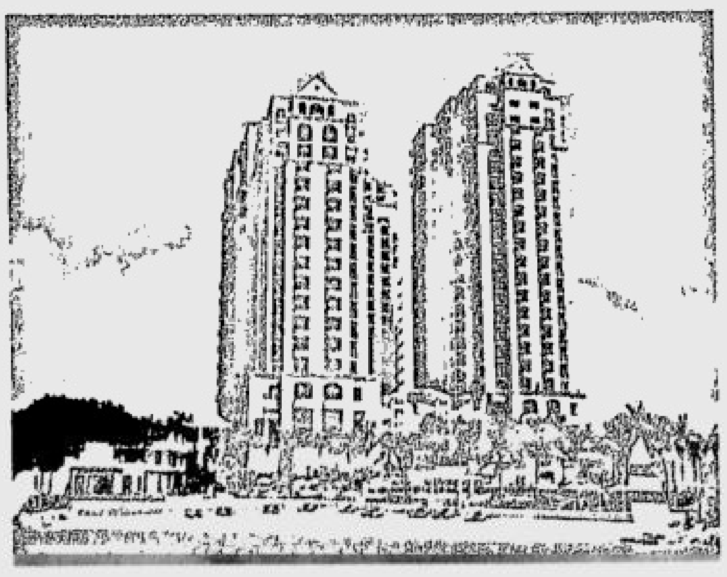

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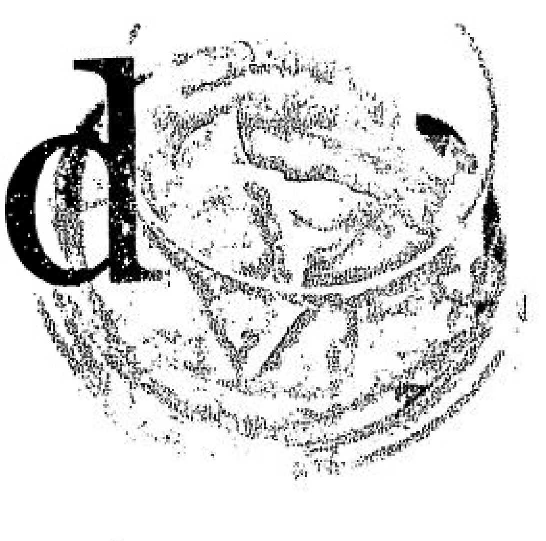
A flair for good taste

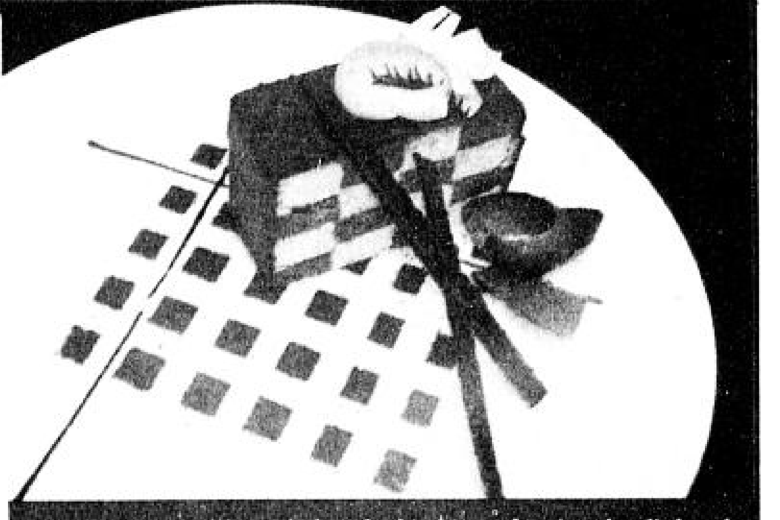


Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa raises the bar for the culinary trip with its fine and chic restaurants that feature a master chef with a wealth of experience on his cap

HILTON CEBU RESORT & SPA FEATURES A DIVERSE menu rich in the finest traditions of international food cultures, ranging from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe, using locally grown and imported ingredients with emphasis on only the freshest of the fresh.

The food is a testament to the chef's versatility and flair in combining the numerous influences he gathered in his culinary globe-trotting and experimentation.

The culinary explorer-exploiter is Executive Chef Stefano Verrillo. Born in Italy, but flourished in Switzerland, Stefano possesses a stirring mixture of the Italian passion for food and the Swiss classical expertise. These foundations would greatly influence the evolution of his successful career.



For eight years, he toiled in the kitchens of Switzerland's hotels starting as an apprentice and blossoming to Chef de Partie. Seeking respite from the Alpine cold and to beat a path to adventure, Stefano sailed South to discover the land of spice and an emerging culinary capitals in Asia and Australia.

He had stints as Sous Chef at the Sheraton Mirage in Port Douglas, donned his cap as Executive Chef for the Sheraton Laguna Nusa Dua in Bali; Riverside Majestic Hotel in Kuching, Malaysia; and as F&B Manager of Berjaya Mahe-Beach Resort in Seychelles.

Following those and prior to Cebu, Stefano was Executive Chef for six years at the renowned Hilton on the Park in Melbourne where he reaped medals in culinary competitions in Sydney and Melbourne and learned the grooves of the funky-trendy Australian-style cooking.

Far from being a kitchen recluse and owing to an effusive personality, Stefano has joined cook shows and demos with the likes of Gordon Ramsey and The Naked Chef James Oliver, Chef Cheong Liew, to mention a few.

Hilton Cebu's innovative entrée's include Dukkas spiced 'Pugapo' (grouper) with local crushed Camote (local yam) and potato, onion confit ice cream topped with mango coriander salsa. It is a climactic convergence of the chillness of ice cream and the hot textured fish.

For the Palawan lobster with truffle champagne sauce, the robust crustacean is delicately simmered to retain its firmness then complemented with snow peas salad and vegetable pearls for a funky fusion delight, inspiration from Stefano's Australian sojourn.

Desserts are made in house such as almond Crocant, duo of fruit Coulis and Calamansi-infused Panna Cotta. The last is a very classic Italian dessert but with the bite of the diminutive local lemon.

The resort offers an extensive 'boutique wine list' designed to complement the restaurant's cuisine, as well as vintage and nouveau cocktails such as Pink Passion.

Seas Restaruant is a chic specialty restaurant featuring local and international seafood specialties with a balanced a' la carte menu. It showcases the seafood market concept with an emphasis on freshness and versatility.

Vanilla Beach Café is the resort's all-day dining restaurant, casual-chic 1950's and 60's beach feels with retro-colonial design and vanilla colored walls. Fare is an influence of regional, Mediterranean and Filipino cuisine highlighted by our Chef's "Signature Dishes".

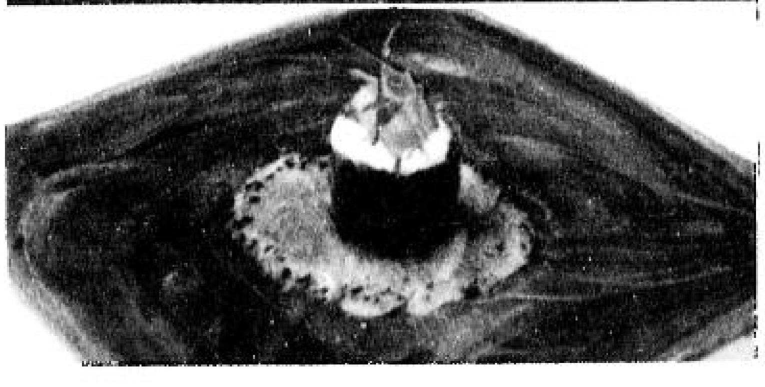
Manny O's Wines & Tapas is perched on the sea at the tip of a marina serving traditional tapas, but with an exuberant twist and a dash of humor. It offers a spectacular view of the turquoise sea and outlying island with a windswept al fresco deck and roof-to-ceiling bay windows. Manny O's features regular happy hours and a smorgasbord of "Food for sharing" consisting of platters of tasty Tapas served at your table.

Pink and breezy-set amidst the live foliage and brisk wind from the sea, the beverages along with signature Pink cocktails mixed at the bar.

The Sapphire Pool Bar overlooks the resort's infinity swimming pool and provides for the perfect place to sip a cool drink or enjoy a light snack.

The Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa is an upscale 246-room resort with a French-Mediterranean flavor located on a private beach on the holiday island Mactan in Cebu. The resort is just 10 minutes from the international airport and 25 minutes from cosmopolitan Cebu City.

For reservations, please call +6332 4927722 or log on to www.cebu.hilton.com.



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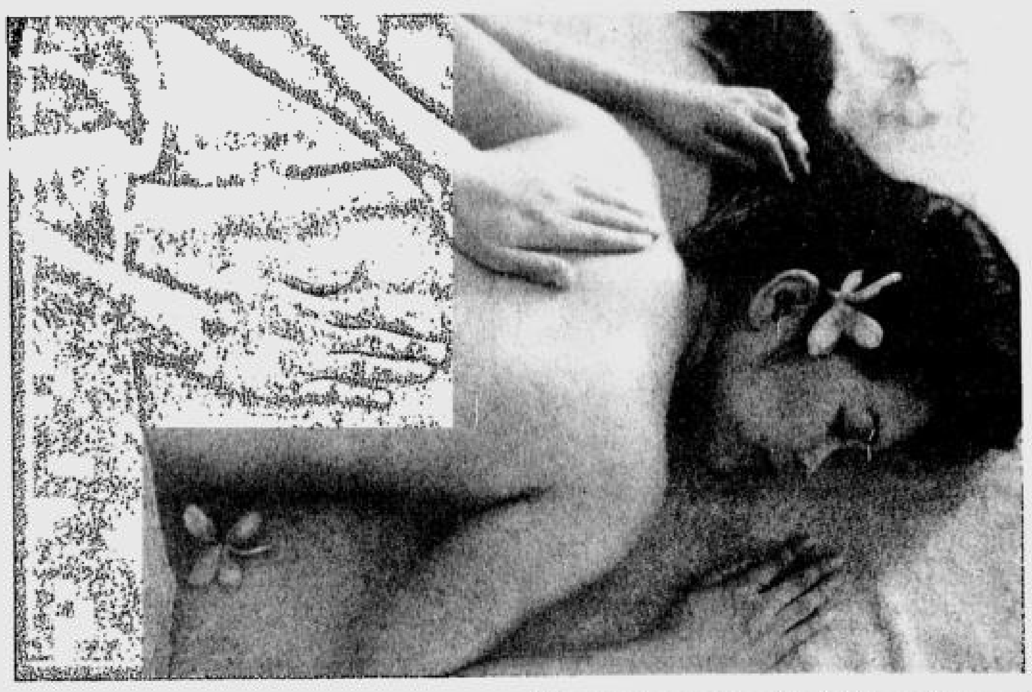
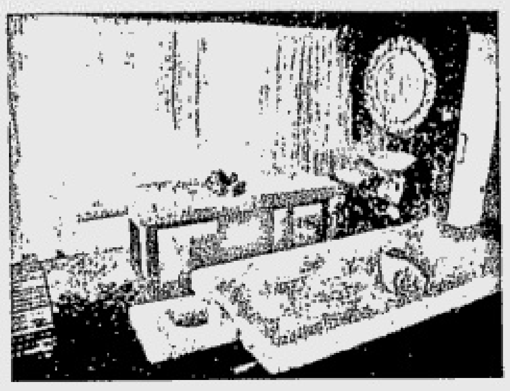
CONGRATULATION FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF
"THE HILTON CEBU RESORT & SPA" MACTAN ISLAND, CEBU CITY

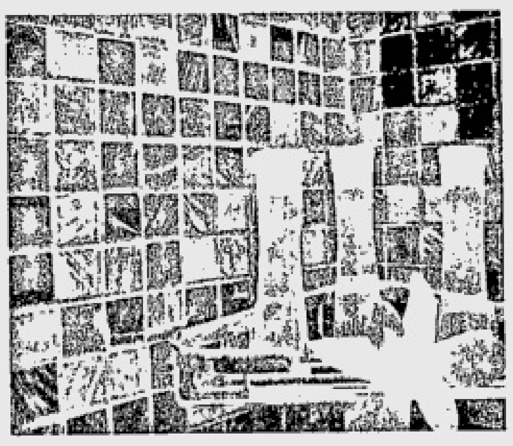


The Spa



A pampering lifestyle solution for visitors to this holiday and romantic destination

THE HILTON CEBU RESORT & SPA launches The Spa, a pampering lifestyle solution for visitors and guests. The Spa is set in the private garden leading to the beach overlooking the turquoise blue waters of Mactan Island in Cebu.



Both holiday and romantic destination, The Spa blends harmoniously with the beach setting, having an architecture, interiors and facilities that are fresh and contemporary.

Zen-inspired therapy rooms have a very intimate environment with candles and aromatic creations of mixed oils with beds of soft deep linens. For couples the suites have Jacuzzis and showers set in a private sunbathed terrace with a spectacular view of the ocean.

The Spa uses an exclusive product line with bath oils, essential oils, aromatic mists and bath salts developed only for Hilton. Treatments are Thai-inspired grounded on humility, simplicity and tranquility and the Four Element rituals—Fire, Air, Water and Earth, mother nature's flawless path to relaxation, rejuvenation and re-balance.

Drawing inspiration from the local culture,

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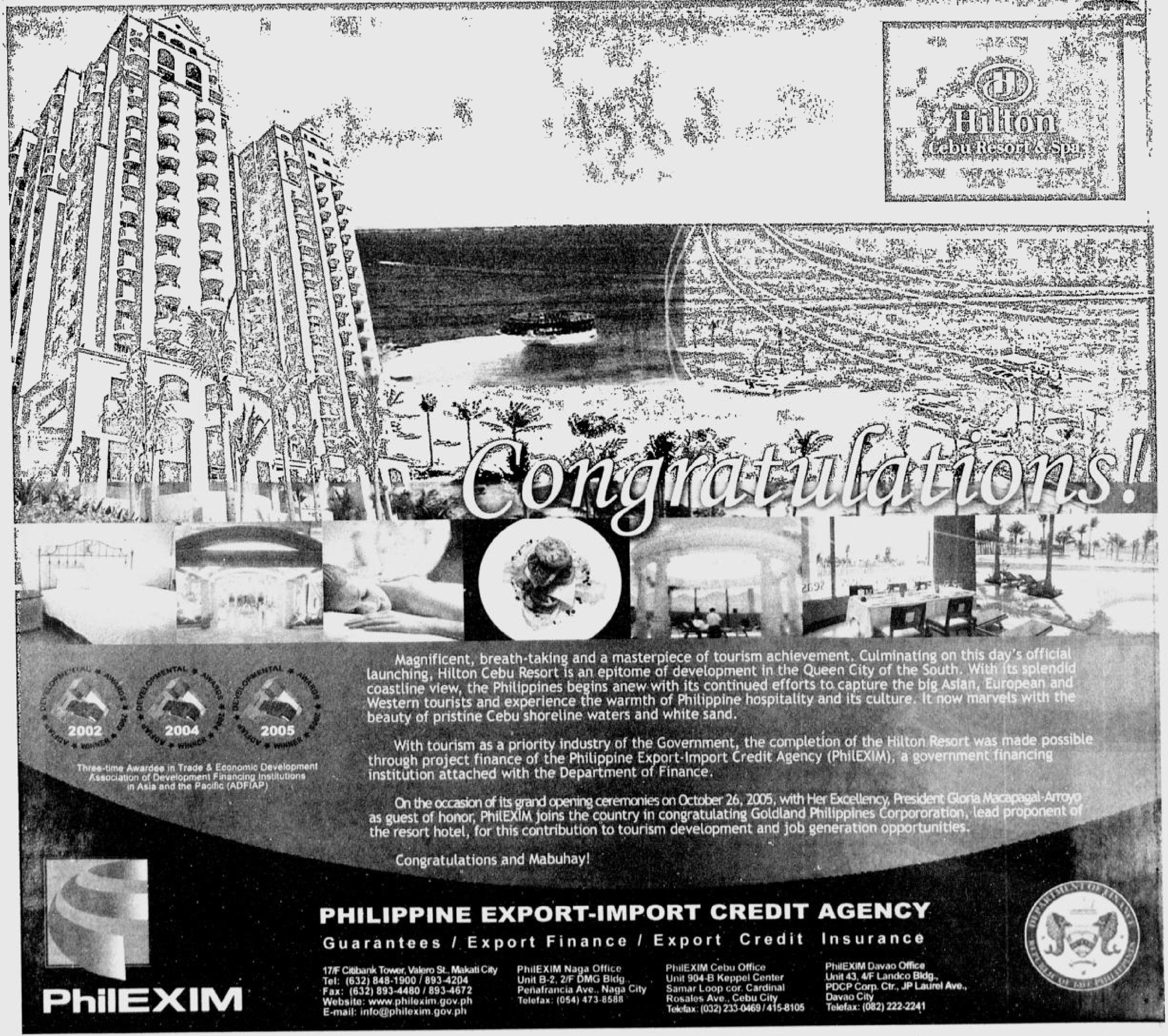

Three-time Awardee in Trade & Economic Development
Association of Development Financing Institutions
in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP)

Magnificent, breath-taking and a masterpiece of tourism achievement. Culminating on this day's official launching, Hilton Cebu Resort is an epitome of development in the Queen City of the South. With its splendid coastline view, the Philippines begins anew with its continued efforts to capture the big Asian, European and Western tourists and experience the warmth of Philippine hospitality and its culture. It now marvels with the beauty of pristine Cebu shoreline waters and white sand.

With tourism as a priority industry of the Government, the completion of the Hilton Resort was made possible through project finance of the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilEXIM), a government financing institution attached with the Department of Finance.

On the occasion of its grand opening ceremonies on October 26, 2005, with Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor, PhilEXIM joins the country in congratulating Goldland Philippines Corpororation, lead proponent of the resort hotel, for this contribution to tourism development and job generation opportunities.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

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Fax: (632) 893-4480 / 893-4672
Website: www.philexim.gov.ph
E-mail: info@philexim.gov.ph

PhilEXIM Naga Office
Unit B-2, 2/F DMG Bldg.,
Peñafrancia Ave., Naga City
Telefax: (054) 473-8588

PhilEXIM Cebu Office
Unit 904-B Keppel Center
Samar Loop cor. Cardinal
Rosales Ave., Cebu City
Telefax: (032) 233-0469 / 415-8105

PhilEXIM Davao Office
Unit 43, 4/F Landco Bldg.,
PDCP Corp. Ctr., JP Laurel Ave.,
Davao City
Telefax: (082) 222-2241

ATR-Kim Eng Group of Companies
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on its formal launch.
Hilton
Cebu Resort & Spa

Head Office
4th – 7th Floors, TPG Tower
EDSA corner Boni Avenue
Mandaluyong City 1550
Telephone Number (02) 535-1059
Facsimile Number (02) 535-4923

Cebu City – AsianLife Financial
Room 202 CRM Building
N. Escario corner Molave Streets, Cebu City
Telephone Number (032) 232-8569
Facsimile Number (032) 232-6400

Cebu City – AsianLife & General
Rm. 206, Cebu Holding Center
Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Telephone Number (032) 231-1324
Facsimile Number (032) 232-1282

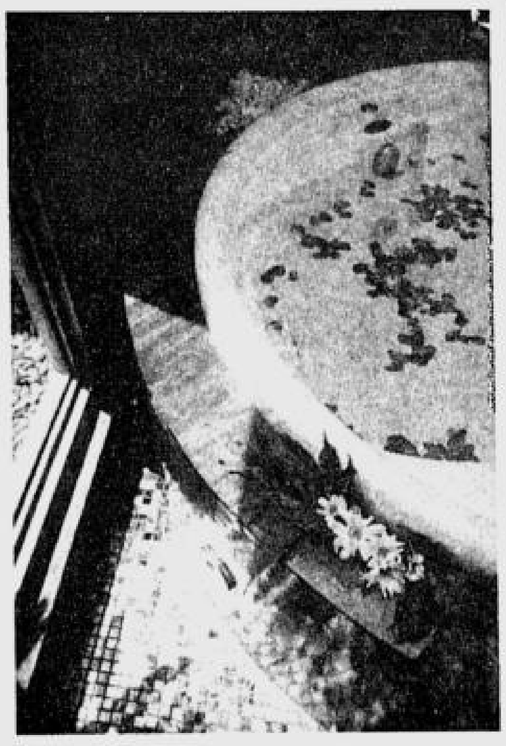
The Spa

From page B17

Simon Littlewood, Hilton's Spa consultant developed the signature 'Mactan Massage'—a rejuvenating treatment of gentle pressure using massage oils performed by gracious Filipino therapists. "The massage is a tribute to the island of Mactan, its tropical setting, laid-back lifestyle and the genuine hospitality of its inhabitants" says Simon.

The spa experience permeates through to the privacy of the resort's guestrooms. The resort's 74 Spa suites have separate living and bedroom areas and private balconies a Zen-inspired Art-Deco interior.

A unique key element in each bathroom is an original Jacuzzi brand Spa bath, the first hotel installation of this world-famous brand in the Philippines. Guests can indulge on the "Aqualibrium" treatment with a variety of relaxing, stimulating or beautifying aromatherapy Bath salts and essential oils to stimulate mind, body and spirit right in the comfort of their own suites.



All Spa Suite also enjoy the services of a dedicated Spa Butler whose duties include timely, daily preparation of the Spa bath in accordance to the guest's request, the scheduling/organization of body treatments, and the ordering of food and beverages.

The Spa at Hilton Cebu will be the first in Southeast Asia to use Decleor of France products for well-being treatments. A rejuvenating treatment in a tropical vacation island truly puts back a little of what life takes out.

Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa is French Mediterranean-inspired to evoke a feeling of the "Cote de Azure" with its solarium lobby and live foliage in stately landscaping. The resort boasts a variety of hip and chic restaurants with open kitchens designed by the renowned Dan Q. Kwan for an ultimate dining experience. For leisure, there is a full service health club equipped with a professional gymnasium, steam room, including daily fitness classes. The resort is just 10 minutes from the Mactan International Airport.

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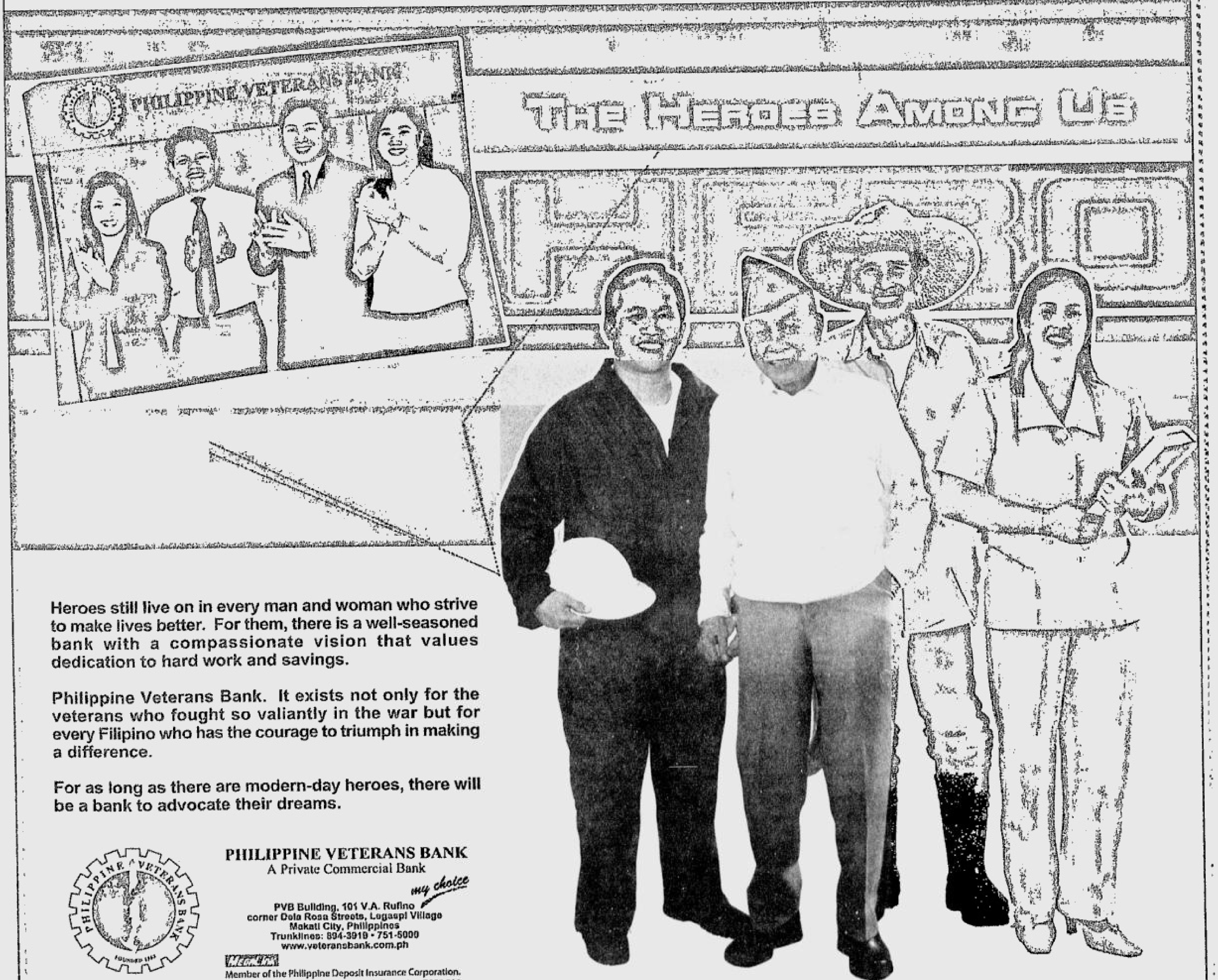
Hilton
Cebu Resort & Spa

to its Grand Opening



Heroes still live on in every man and woman who strive to make lives better. For them, there is a well-seasoned bank with a compassionate vision that values dedication to hard work and savings.

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Mahaplag
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : October 25, 2005
Loan No. : 4299-PH
IFB : SFF-MWSP-01-2005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Construction of the Municipal Waterworks System, in the Municipality of Mahaplag, Province of Leyte.**
3. Bidding documents may be purchased from **October 26, 2005 to November 24, 2005** at the Municipality of Mahaplag with address at Mahaplag, Leyte for a non-refundable fee of **Php 8,000.00** for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **Four Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos (Php 475,000.00)**, which maybe in the form of cash, manager's check or bank guarantee and shall be delivered to the **Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Mahaplag** - on or before **November 25, 2005, 10:00 am**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 9, 2005, 10:00AM** at **SB Session Hall, Mahaplag, Leyte.**
6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CARMELITO C. ALONZO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Email Address: mahaplagleyte@yahoo.com
Cell No. 09219233471

(PDI-Oct. 26, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-305	1 lot Three Years Comprehensive Maintenance Agreement for Alcatel OmniPCX Enterprise Communication Server/PABX, Telephone System (including software in PABX)	P 3,300,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-332	One lot Blade Server	2,400,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on November 23, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for each ITB.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **November 8, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI-Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX. NO. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains cargo handing service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid fro provision of handing services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VIII for the Calendar Year 2006 in the following provinces with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	EST. VOL TO BE HANDLED (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTACT
1	N. Leyte	Port Area, Alangalang, Ormoc	744,500	P 2,692,800.00
2	S. Leyte	Maasin, Baybay & Hilongos	213,400	P 788,040.00
3	Biliran	Naval	182,000	P 676,800.00
4	W. Samar	Calbalogan & Calb.	670,600	P 2,415,960.00
5	N. Samar	Bohon, Bawis, Gamay & Calubig	396,000	P 1,441,800.00
6	E. Samar	Hindang, Oras & Guiuan	411,000	P 1,718,280.00
		TOTAL :	2,617,500	P 9,733,680.00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3, 000.00)

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Oct. 24-Nov. 3, 2005	8:00AM to 5:00PM
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	November 7, 2005	5:00PM
Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility	November 14, 2005	8:00AM to 5:00PM
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	November 15, 2005	2:00PM
Submission & Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	November 29, 2005	9:30AM

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the Government.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI Oct. 20 & 26, 2005)

PRISM PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Invitation to Pre-Qualify/ Apply for Eligibility

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the US Agency for International Development and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc. under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 intends to hire the services of local institutions for the conduct of **Grants Proposal Development Training.**

The PRISM project is focused on three components, namely: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers. Specifically, the Grants Program is designed to fund activities that help achieve the results focused on the three project components.

PRISM is inviting interested local institutions or firms to submit Letters of Intent for Pre-Qualification/Eligibility for the conduct of the training. The Grants Proposal Development Training is expected to be organized on a per need basis for a period of three years. Participants of the training will come from various non-government and private sector organizations nationwide which are interested to apply for a PRISM grant. PRISM anticipates short-listing a number of firms which can conduct the training on a year-round basis.

Pre-qualification Documents

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents:

1) Letter of Intent
2) Company Profile
3) Photocopy of SEC-registration certificate
4) Audited financial statement for 2004
5) List of relevant experience which provide details of work done related to conduct of training on proposal development
6) List of professional facilitators or resource persons

Eligibility Criteria

PRISM will assess eligibility based on the following:

1) Relevant experience in designing and conducting proposal development training
2) Qualification of facilitators, resource persons who will design and conduct the trainings
3) Familiarity with USAID grants or subcontracting procedures
4) Capacity and ability to organize conduct of trainings in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

The deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents is set on November 11, 2005 on or before 5:00 pm.

The application must be submitted to:

Mr. Roldan B. Ramos, Sub-Contract Specialist
23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Pasig City
Telephone number: 635 2397 local 226

Interested parties may attend the pre-qualification conference scheduled on October 28, 2005 Friday at 10 am. The conference will be held at the PRISM office.

PRISM reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 26, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 FAX NO.: (632) 712-1110 E-MAIL: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Provision of Janitorial Services from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P7,497,452.16* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *provision of janitorial maintenance from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.*

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *provision of janitorial maintenance from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.* Period of coverage is January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on *November 23, 2005* from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent 1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 23, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.* at the NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Persons - Jose D. Chua/ Violeta S. Villarama
Address - 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. - (632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 712-0454
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 26, 2005)

International confab on biotoxins set

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON TOXICOLOGY (IST) will hold its 7th Regional Congress on Animal, Plant and Microbial Toxins (APIST 7) on Oct. 25-29 at the Plantation Bay, Mactan Island Cebu. To be held for the first time in the country, the congress, with its theme "Biotoxins and Humanity" will have eminent scientists John B. Harris (IST president), Dietrich Mebs (IST secretary-treasurer), Allan Cembella of Germany, Andre Menez of France, Baldomero M. Olivera of the USA, and Ray Norton of Australia as speakers who will present topics covering various aspects of toxinology -- ranging from the nature of biotoxins to finding uses/applications to address issues and concerns.

The congress which will provide a great opportunity for our young scientists to keep abreast with toxinology and develop collaboration with experts in the field, will focus on the spread and recurrence of harmful algal bloom, a big problem in Southeast Asia, understanding and harnessing biotoxins for peaceful activities and for the benefit of mankind.

Supported by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), University of the Philippines, Diliman, the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Venom Supplies Inc., and Unilab, the congress will be hosted by UP Diliman, the UP College of Medicine with Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz, professor of the UP Marine Science Institute and Dr. Rhodora V. Azanza, dean of the College of Science, UP Diliman, as co-chairs.

Interested parties may contact the Apist Secretariat at 433-2991 and 921-5967, email at secretariat@apist7.org or visit its website www.apist7.org.

Taking on greater responsibility

IMPERIAL CONSULTING, INC. IN PARTNERSHIP with American Management Association and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines brings you AMA's Taking on Greater Responsibility: Step Up Skills for Nonmanagers on Nov. 17-18, at the Makati Shangri-La. Get ready to grow in your job and meet new demands To excel in this rapidly changing work environment, you need more skills than ever before-like understanding your business, managing change, communicating strategically, leading, working in teams and juggling your new assignments with current responsibilities.

The seminar will give you the skills you need to make a difference and grow in your career and your organization. This is for anyone interested in developing the skills to improve their performance and growth within their organization. Project managers will benefit, as well as professionals in customer service, sales, accounting and technical fields.

This seminar is also designed for high-potential employees and individuals who are seeking new responsibilities. Training investment is P16,500 for AMA members and P18,150 for non-members. For more information, call 8451324 or 7596680 or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph or visit our website at www.imperialconsulting.com.ph

Center for Pop expands to 'Stars & Event'

AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, THE HRD departments of companies seem to get busier, balancing their enormous day-to-day activities and the pressures of staging an enjoyable X'mas Party for their employees. Booking stars, bands, hosts, comedians, stage director, production people, sound and lighting system, stage design and construction, training employees to participate plus rehearsals seem unimaginable with a very limited time. To solve this problem, HRDs outsource this highly specialized function to event production groups to unburden them of this delicate task of event production like X'mas parties, corporate shows, employees' presentations, anniversaries, product launches, etc.

Thus, the Center for Pop Music Philippines launches its new division Stars & Events", a brainchild of Butch Albarracin, CPMP founder and CEO . He says, "It's an easy access to the stars and great event productions. Hassle-free!"

"Stars & Events" also specializes in transforming company employees, to be stars for a night in their event. Their training in voice, stage performance, dance choreography is handled by the Center for Pop Music Philippines. Yesterday, "Stars & Events" provided promising singing talents for Philippine Daily Inquirer's Memorial Expo at the Bonifacio Shrine, Lawton, Manila. Another "Stars & Events" project is the CPMP's 1st anniversary concert on Oct. 29, entitled "One Of A Kind" at the SM Cinema 5, SM North EDSA, QC.

Other clients of "Stars & Events" include Team Asia, Manpower Outsourcing Services, Colgate-Palmolive, Phils., Digital Crown Holdings (Lampeberge) Phil. Marketing Association's, PMAP, MAPSA Cubao Parochial Schools at Araneta Coliseum, SPI Content, Leighton Construction, etc. More information about "Stars & Events" can be obtained through Center for Pop Music Philippines head office located at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, QC with tel. nos. 723-9373 or 422-7310 or 0917-8510492.

Congratulations
GRADE SCHOOL VARSITY
2005 MIDGETS CHAMPION
OCT. 15, 2005

The Ateneo Grade School Basketball Varsity team celebrates after beating La Salle 56-53 for the 2005 PAYA MIDGETS Championship. Shown in photo from left to right: Head Coach P.J Navarro and players Luigi Santos, Paolo Engracia, Luigi Consulta, Ramon Ignacio, Aji Oppus, Jan Resurreccion, Arrel Pascual, Von Pessumal, Sas Pineda, Hansy Chavez, Javie Yuzon, Lee Roman, Gio Tiongson, Martin Garcia and Derrick Gomez. Not in photo is Asst Coach Bong Mojas.

NFA offers drying and trucking aid to farmers

THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority office here in Pili, Camarines Sur is offering its drying and hauling facilities to farmers especially those affected by the recent typhoon 'Labuyo'. According to provincial manager Edmundo V. Enrique, his office has six units of mechanical driers with a capacity to dry 1,000 bags for a 12-hour operation. A minimum fee of P30 per bag of 50 kgs will be charged to farmers who will avail of the services. He also said that a service truck is being made available to interested farmers and members of cooperatives to haul their palay produce from the farm to the NFA or to private traders. This harvest season, the NFA buys palay from individual farmers at P10 per kg. This is exclusive of additional incentives of P0.25 broken down as follows: P0.15 for drying, P0.10 for delivery and P0.25 per kg for coop development of farmer organizations. Manager Enrique advised farmers who wish to sell to NFA that they a required to secure the farmers passbooks from the nearest NFA office before they can sell their palay produ "Issuance and facilitation of passbook revalidation have bee simplified to make it easier for farmers to transact with our office," he stressed.

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OBITUARIES

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Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY NEARLY APPROACHES, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. The event will start today and will last until October 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Rev. Fr. Luciano R. Paguiligan

of the Diocese of Imus
Born: January 7, 1929

peacefully joined his Creator on October 22, 2005.

Wake Schedule:

- **Meadowood Executive Village Bacoor, Cavite** until Wed., Oct. 26, 3pm
- **Our Lady of Peace Salinas, Bacoor** until Thurs., Oct. 27, 9am
- **Imus Cathedral** until Oct. 27, 2:00 pm

Funeral Mass will be offered at 2:00 pm
Thursday, Imus Cathedral.

Interment follows at the Angelus Eternal Garden,
Imus, Cavite.

RAMON AQUINO RAMOS

of San Jose (Oco), Viga, Catanduanes
was called home to the Lord to join
*his son **RAMON JR.**, and his parents*
***MARIO T. RAMOS** and **POMPIA AQUINO**,*
on October 22, 2005 at the age of 44.

His loving wife **Beata Arcilla**, children **Dondon** and **Wilmen**, **Tan-Tan**, **Tin-Tin**, **Jordan** and **Beverly**, grandchild **Wilhem Marie**, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, uncles and aunties, cousins and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ramos Residence in San Jose (Oco), Viga, Catanduanes.

Interment will be on October 30, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Catholic Cemetery of San Jose (Oco), Viga, Catanduanes.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff
of

IMUS RURAL BANK, INC.

Imus, Cavite
mourn the passing away of

EMILIANO CRISOSTOMO MONTOYA

Board of Director and Officer 1997-1999

on October 24, 2005 at the age of 80.

We join his brothers and sisters, **Narcisa**, **Gabriel**, **Trinidad**, **Emmanuel**, **Jose** (+), **Francisco** and **Ernesto**; brothers and sisters-in-law; relatives and friends in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 71 Capt. Ignacio Bella St.,
Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

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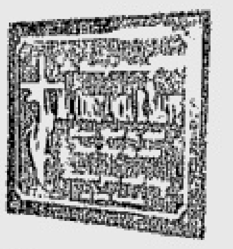

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NAPOLEON MENDEZ CAPULONG, DVM

Ret. Sr. Meat Control Officer, National Meat Inspection Service
Former City Veterinarian,Cabanatuan City
Member, Philippine Veterinary Medical Association
UP College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 1963
of Plaridel, Bulacan

Peacefully rejoined our Creator on October 24, 2005 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife, **Vivien Capulong**, sons: **Enrico**, **Edgar** and **Edwin**, daughters-in-law **Teresita** and **Nanette**, and grandchildren: **Katrina**, **Paolo**, **Bryan** and **Isabelle**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rocka Village 2 Chapel, Tabang, Plaridel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Plaridel, Bulacan after the 1pm Mass.

Col. Baltazar S. Nava, Ret.

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
last October 22, 2005 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife **Filotea T. Nava**; children and spouses: **Roberto** & **Gitta**, **Baifi** & **George**, **Nestor** & **Nora**, **Lea** & **Rommel**, **Louella** & **Joseph**, and **Annette** & **Luis** and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Guadalupe Garden Suite. Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on October 30, 2005 at dawn.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

In Loving Memory on
33RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

of our dearly beloved

MARIETA JUALINO ARNAEZ

April 4, 1940 - October 26, 1972

We, Romy & Dart and Sandra, Day & Richard, Jumbo & Rachel, and Jet, request all her relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	One (1) job furnishing of materials, labor, tools, equipment and supervision for the complete installation of various pumps for centralized air conditioning system at the BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
Approved Budget For the Contract	P 4,620,000.00
Contract Duration / Delivery Period	One hundred sixty eight (168) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail", criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its *Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)*.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	21 October to 18 November 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	18 November 2005, 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	29 November 2005, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2005
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,300.00 to the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas Cashier.

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. # SAN LAZARO COMPOUND, RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ 1003, MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-33-01 LOCAL 1650-1652; Web address. www.doh.gov.ph

October 20 2005

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Training of Assistance and Assessment Teams on the Level 2
Sentrong Sigla Standards
(IFB-CS-GOP-2005-13 [2])

1. The *Department of Health (DOH)*, intends to apply the sum of *Two Million Pesos* (P2,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to pay for the Training of Technical Assistance and Assessment Teams on the Level 2 Sentrong Sigla Standards (IFB-CS-GOP-2005-13 [2]). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals
2. The requirements for eligibility and shortlisting may be obtained from the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Secretariat namely Ms. Coney Liberan or Ms. Debbie Rabi, Procurement Division 3/F Bldg. 6 with tel. no. 743-83-01 loc. 1650, 1651 & 1652 from October 21 to October 27, 2005 during office hours or may be downloaded from the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph). Consultants who wish to offer their services must submit a Letter of Intent for the project together with the required eligibility and shortlisting requirements to the COBAC Secretariat or electronically not later than November 2, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.
3. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished eligibility documents shall be on November 2, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the *COBAC Conference Room*. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
4. The COBAC *shall* draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of *three (3) to seven (7)* consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are *applicable* experience (40%), qualification of personnel (40%) and current workload (20%).
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the eligibility documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The DOH shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) with 70/30 weight in favor of technical proposal*.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the *COBAC Secretariat: Ms. Coney Liberan/ Ms. Debbie Rabi* at the address given below from *10 AM to 4:00 PM*.
7. The contracts shall be completed *within a maximum period of Eight (8) months*.
8. The *Department of Health* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Contact Info:
Ms. Concepcion Liberan/ Ms. Debbie A. Rabi, COBAC Secretariat
Address: 3/F Building 6, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 743-33-01 LOCAL 1650-1652
Email address: csliberan@co.doh.gov.ph
Fax No. 741-9775
Web address: www.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI-Oct. 26, 2005)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
Email: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

I.T. Equipment Requirements of PEZA

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of PhP 6,730,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the I.T. Equipment Requirements of PEZA. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following lots with their corresponding ABC:

   Lot 1 – Personal Computers, Servers, Printers, KVM Switch, External CD Writer and Accessories = PhP 6,430,000.00

   Lot 2 – Anti-Virus Software = PhP 300,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 26 October to 07 November 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,500.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *PEZA* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 11 November 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, Almeda Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 23 November 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on 23 November 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, Almeda Bldg. III Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
9. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F Almeda Building III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza bac secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2005)

BUSINESS

With crisis, GMA seen unable to steer economy

Morgan Stanley says foreign investors staying out

By Michelle V. Remo

MORGAN STANLEY SAID IT WAS KEEPing a cautious outlook on the Philippines, believing that the continued political turbulence would hold the Arroyo administration ineffective in keeping the economy afloat.

"While Ms (Gloria Macapagal) Arroyo might be able to serve out the remainder of her term, the fact remains that her authority and power have been substantially weakened by political storms in recent months," Morgan Stanley said in its latest paper titled "Inside Asean."

The New York-based investment bank said foreign investors were staying out of the Philippines in the meantime given the uncertainty in the country's political climate that could spill over to the economic front.

The bank noted that private consumption remained uncertain despite the healthy level of overseas remittances, as indicated by a moderate 5-percent year-on-year growth in demand for foreign goods in July compared with a 25.9-percent growth in remittances.

"Investment growth shows no sign of recovery as imports of capital goods (which declined 2.4 percent year-on-year in July) as well as raw materials and intermediate goods (which slumped 7.8 percent year-on-year and 9.5 percent year-to-date in July) continued to worsen," the bank said.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that in August, imports of capital goods rose by 16.3 percent year-on-year, while imports of raw materials and intermediate goods fell by 6.4 percent.

Philippine economic officials, however, maintained confidence in the government's ability to achieve its macroeconomic targets despite the ongoing political problem. On the fiscal front, authorities said the government would be able to reduce its budget deficit to a level below the official target of P180 billion this year.

The Investors Relation Office of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the scheduled implementation of the VAT Reform Law in November was expected to regain market confidence as it could help the government wipe out its deficit by 2008.

Prior to the passage of the VAT bill, the government expected that the target of a zero deficit would be attained by 2010.

Malacañang has also said the country likely grew by 5 percent in the third quarter of the year, higher than the 4.6 and 4.8 percent recorded in the first and second quarters.

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Pharmaceuticals urge changes in RP patent law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL firms is pushing for changes in the country's patent law to allow the companies to conduct research and development on patented medicines even before the products' exclusivity expires.

Michael Francis A. dela Cruz, president of the Philippine Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industries, said prices of medicines could go down faster if such an amendment would be made.

"Currently, the law considers any R&D on a patented drug done before the 20-year patent expires as an infringement of (intellectual property right)," Dela Cruz said. "We are supporting the 'early working provision for generic drugs' that will change this view."

Patents are issued as an incentive to investors to pursue R&D on new products and production processes through a temporary monopoly that lasts 20 years.

Dela Cruz said that if drug manufacturers are made to wait for a patent to expire, the patent holder would enjoy an additional two to four years of monopoly because it takes that long to develop and register an equivalent of the patented product.

He said the development of generic medicines reduces prices by at least 30 percent and as much as half.

Also, Dela Cruz said the lack of knowledge of companies about patents and the patent system is one of the barriers to competition in the pharmaceutical industry. This, along with regulatory and financial constraints, prevent a reduction in the prices of medicine.

Last week, experts said the country should be able to take advantage of options like compulsory licensing to ensure that poor people could afford medicines. With compulsory licensing, patent holders are compelled to allow competitors to make their products for a fee.

Prudential's failed SPV deal weighs on BPI

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRUDENTIAL BANK FAILED TO CLOSE A special purpose vehicle (SPV) deal that would have scrapped P4 billion in bad assets. The news is expected to weigh heavily on acquirer Bank of the Philippine Islands.

But BPI president Aurelio Montinola III told reporters Monday night that all the non-performing loans (NPLs) of Prudential Bank, including the pending SPV transaction, had been factored in when the bank did its due diligence.

"There was an SPV deal that did not go through so it was reversed," Montinola said. "It's something that we recognized in the financials of Prudential as of June, so the NPLs were again taken in," Montinola said.

BPI shares have fallen by about 10 percent at the Philippine Stock Exchange over the last two weeks. It firmed up at P50.50 per share yesterday, on concerns that BPI might not have taken into account the spurned SPV deal when it bought a controlling stake in Prudential Bank last August.

A special BPI stockholders meeting is scheduled on Nov. 11 where all the issues relating to the new acquisition will be cleared up, Montinola said.

"The integration is proceeding quite well," he said referring to the acquisition. "We've also stated that when we have a better handle on the NPLs and ROPOAS (real and other properties owned and acquired) of Prudential, we can include it in our SPV deal."

He said BPI would be able to fully absorb Prudential Bank anywhere between July and December next year, adding that the bank was not searching for new acquisition targets at this time.

Last August, BPI bought about 91.5 percent of the Santos family's Prudential Bank through block purchases at the PSE worth P5.6 billion. It was earlier estimated that Prudential Bank's NPLs amounted to about P6 billion.

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WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 26, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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Cinderella

SWAROVSKI-STUDDED gown by the late Joe Salazar, courtesy of Aiz Twaño

The age of innocence

Text and styling by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa

IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE young people acting their age—or sometimes even younger—instead of trying to appear older and more mature than they really are.

While a certain degree of maturity is appreciated, it can be disturbing to see scantily-clad 10-year-old girls dragging their moms to the cosmetics counter so they can buy lip gloss and blush.

GOLD corset top, X. Pearl chandelier earrings and gold bangle, Happy David

So it is a welcome development that more and more young people are coming back to the things they enjoyed as children, instead of shunning them altogether. The resurgence of interest in children's literature (Chronicles of Narnia, Roald Dahl and Harry Potter come to mind) and movies only proves that some childhood loves will never be outgrown.

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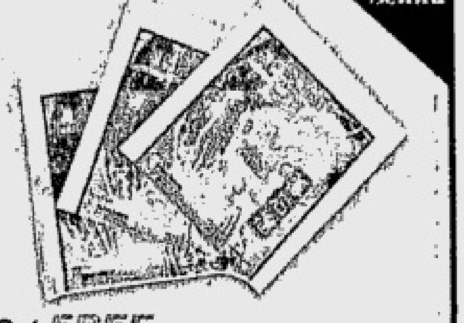

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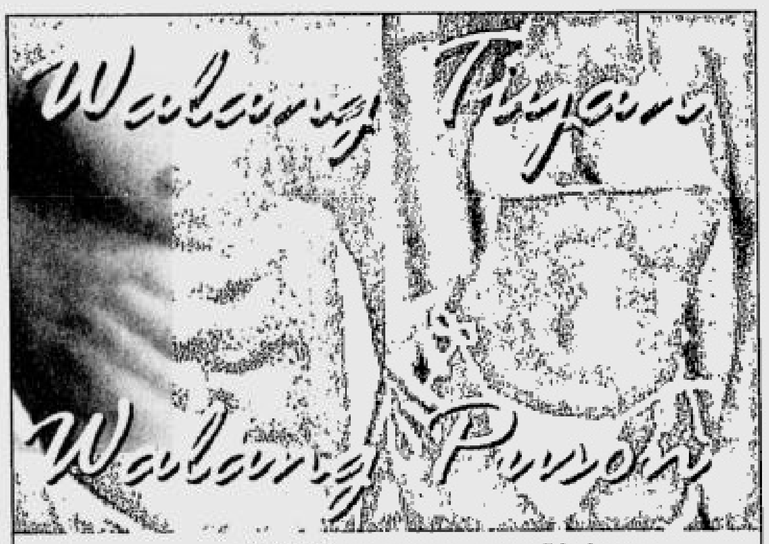

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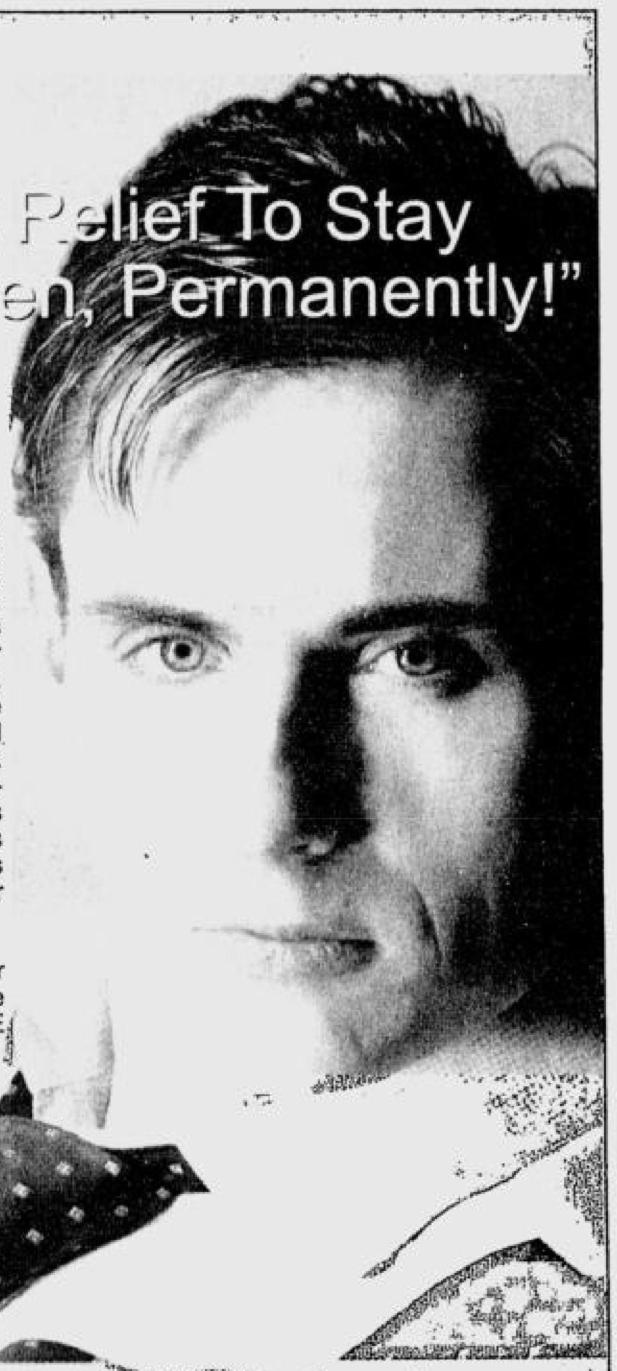
Chairman, Behringer Philippines



"I wanted to get rid of my heavy beard. It was growing so fast and so much that I had to shave twice a day! Aside from the inconvenience, other shaving-related skin problems also came up like ingrown hair and pimples. It was terribly irritating. Then my friend told me about the LaserLight treatment. After several sessions, my beard didn't grow back. It's such a great relief to stay clean-shaven the whole day and night. It's permanent! My skin also feels smoother and looks better. This is really one of the best things I've ever done in my life!"

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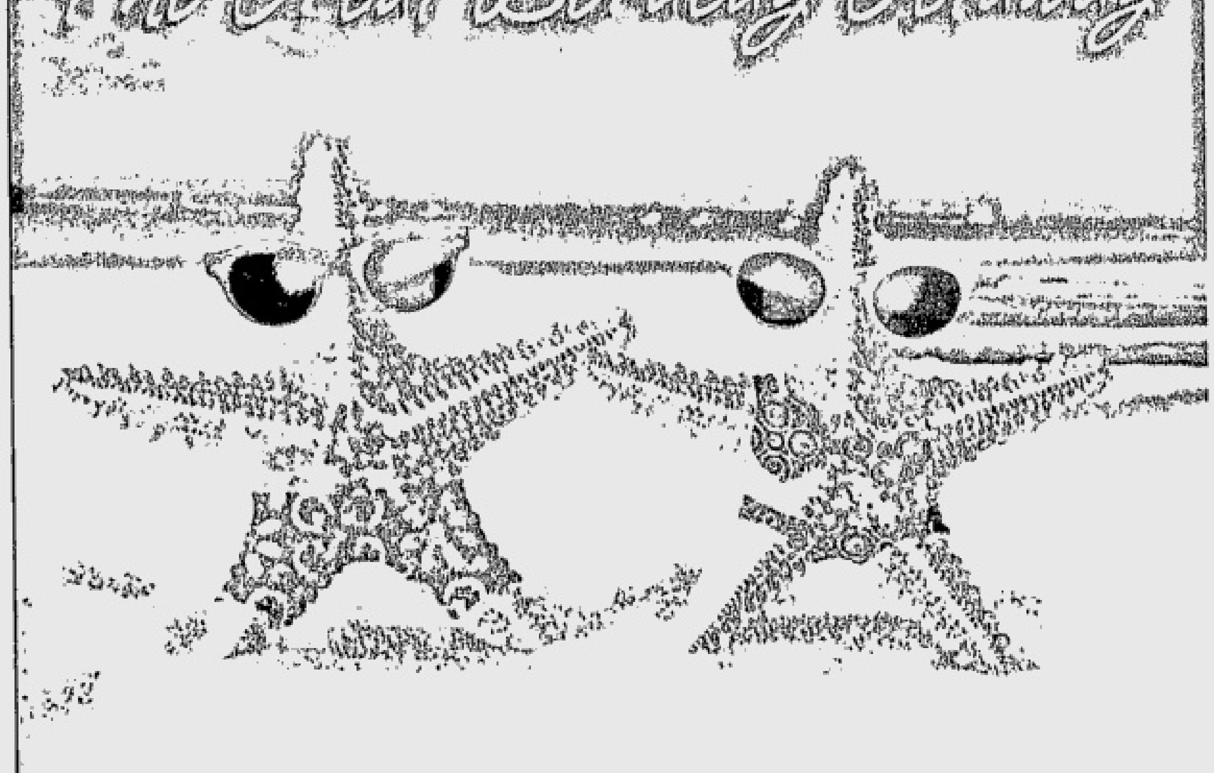

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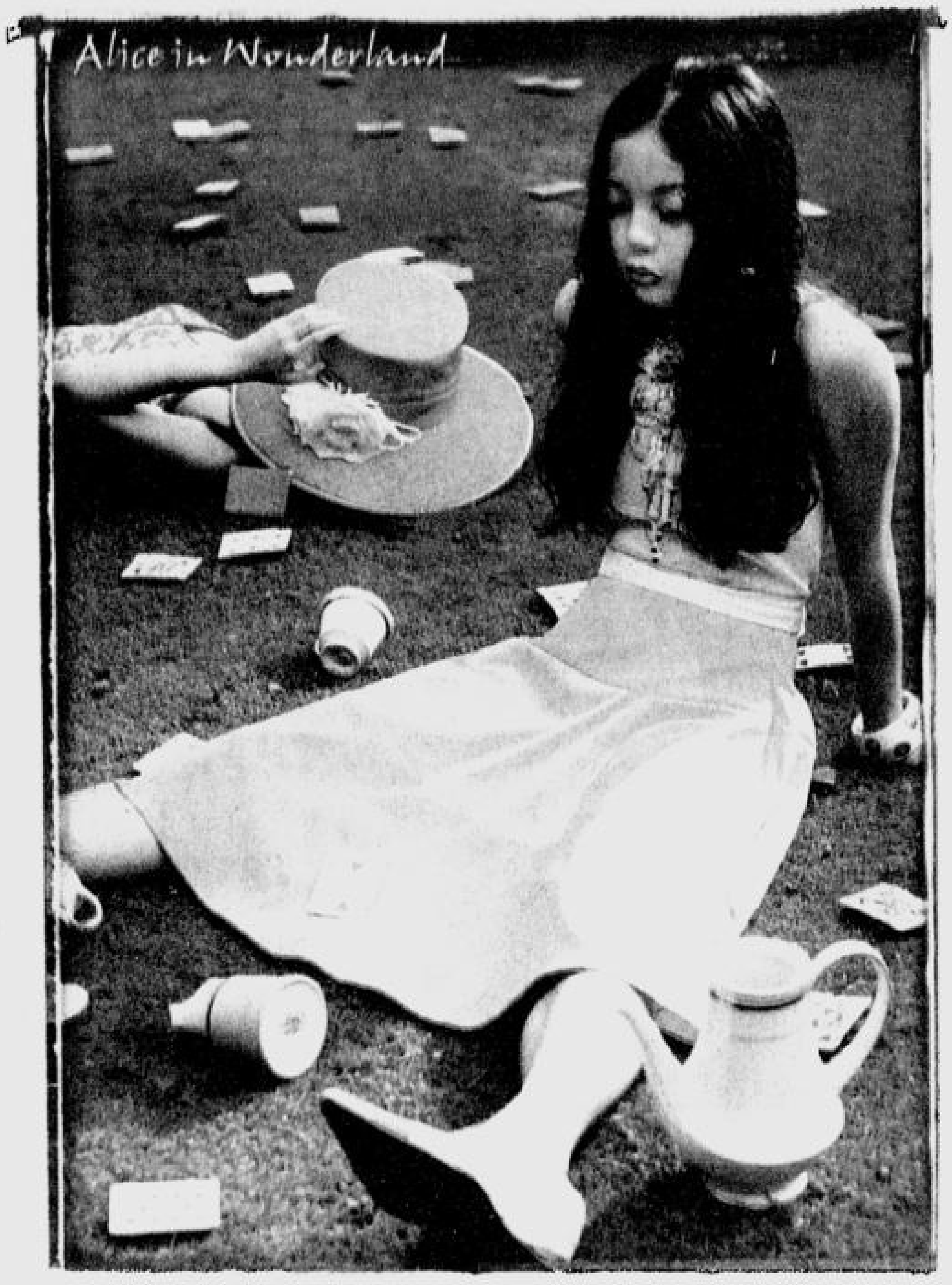
PINK sweater, Urban & Co. Red corset and pink skirt, X. Embroidered bag, Karimadon. Sash, stylist's own



TIFFANY blue dress, X. White sash, YRYS. Multicolored platforms, Pretty Fit. Pink Swarovski necklace, Happy David. Hat, stylist's own

BLUE sequined top, YRYS. Swarovski necklace, Happy David

The age of innocence

BLUE lace top, YRYS. Necklace, earrings and bangle from Happy David

From page C1

And what can exemplify childhood better than all things Disney? The excitement over the recent opening of Hong Kong Disneyland only proved that not-so-deep inside, many adults are really still children at heart.

It is no longer uncommon to see teens or yuppies trick-or-treating on Halloween nights nowadays—and more often than not, they are the ones who put serious effort into their costumes, as opposed to the all-black ensembles favored by adolescents trying to be cool, and ready-made spandex outfits for kids.

Young adults, obviously, don't go for the candy. They go because Halloween gives them a chance to play around and be silly, to live out their fantasies vicariously for just one night.

Girls, in particular, seem to have a lot of fairy tale-inspired fantasies. Often, the most common creative graduation photo themes revolve around pixies, masquerades and, of course, princesses. So they bring in their rhinestone tiaras, petticoats and glass slippers and become princesses, even for just a few minutes. Some live out their princess fantasies in photos, some do it on Halloween night. But there's no getting past it—everyone loves to be a princess.

Pocahontas

BROWN dress, Urban & Co. Belts, YRYS. Necklace and bracelet set, Happy David

> If the things that made you happy then can make you happy for a minute or two now, then by all means, go for it

Admit it—who was your favorite Disney princess? Did you pretend to be Ariel, singing to her prince from a faraway rock on the sea? Were you Belle, who saw beyond the Beast's ugly façade? Did you sit on your carpet at home and pretend to sing "A Whole New World" with an imaginary Aladdin? Did you ever bite into an apple and imagine you were Snow White?

If you did, then why stop now? There's no reason to leave the things that made your childhood more magical—least of all your age. If the things that made you happy then can make you happy for a minute or two now,

THE AGE/ C4

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Senator Edgardo Angara
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Lourd de Veyra (Palanca Awardee, Independent Artist)
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Year & Course	
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List your extracurricular activities:

My beauty arsenal

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

I WAS CAUGHT IN A ROMANTIC-COMEDY marathon this past week—so much, that this week's column is inspired by one of them.

I got to thinking about Matthew McConaughey's famous line from "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days." It was the only other thing I couldn't get off my head besides Kate Hudson's gorgeous outfits! "A woman's purse is her secret source of power," he said, referring to that constant companion every woman has, regardless of the occasion (or the number of items the miniature bag can actually contain).

This fictional line is actually based on a truth. There is a certain degree of power associated with a woman's purse—or, more accurately, its contents. Women don't derive that power from social status or monetary possessions. We feel most "powerful" when we know we are at our best. And the tools we need to be our best is in that tiny purse.

This week, I will share the current contents of my own bag. My arsenal, if we must call them that. I don't usually carry all these around at all times. I might have two or three of them at a time depending on the circumstances, but if you do find me with a spring in my step or a steadier stance, you can bet it's because I'm effectively armed—and hopefully, fabulous.

Clean Ultimate Eau de Parfum. Congratulate me, I've finally graduated from baby cologne! Being averse to anything that smells like potpourri, I have stayed away from perfume for quite some time now. But when I discovered this no-frills scent, it was absolutely love at first spritz.

I love how it sends me back to the moment I leave my shower every time I spray it on. It's freshness in a bottle! Whether it's errand day or date-with-the-boyfriend day, I make sure I smell Clean. I simply can't imagine smelling any better than that!

Bobbi Brown Apricot Shimmer Brick Compact. I have to live with the reality that after a few months of staying out of the sun, I turn as white as a *siopao*. Then there's this other fact that most bronzers just look fake when worn atop my ghastly neck and décolletage.

With this blend of pale peaches, shimmery beiges and the lightest tawny bronze, I've finally hit the balance between glowing and embracing my natural skin tone. With a couple of sweeps, I look healthier—with or without blush.

L'Oreal Sheer Cashmere Foundation in Nude Beige. Powder tends to dry my skin out, and foundation just makes my complexion feel too suffocated on a regular day. This cream-to-powder formula does neither, and covers my dark circles and dark spots without caking up.

Easy to blend but dries to a nicely matte finish, Sheer Cashmere is the best foundation for otherwise foundation-phobic girls like me.

Shu by Ai Limited Edition Compact. This work of art by Shu Uemura in collaboration with artist Ai Yamaguchi is more than a beauty compact—it's the product of a good cause. I keep my favorite blush and shadow shades (Glow On in P Pink, Pressed Eye shadows in ME Gold and IR Beige) in this gorgeous compact, and every time I take it out, not only do I feel so much pride in showing off true art, I am reminded that beauty isn't just about being beautiful. It's about making the world a more beautiful place with goodness, as well.

Sugar Baby Ice Princess Eye Line 'n' Shine in Natural Born Princess. I love products that don't need tools to look perfect, and to find one that works beautifully on your eyes is quite uncommon. This eye pencil in a sheer, barely-there gold is my top eye-brightening pick for days when eye makeup just won't fit into your schedule.

The chubby pencil glides on really easy, and is a cinch to smudge with a finger. Great for the no-makeup look and as a highlighter for times when you need to glam it up.

Shu Uemura Rouge Crème in 262. No matter how incredibly shiny and fruity-tasting a lip product is, you can be sure it won't be within 10 feet of my smoocher if it's goopy and sticky.

This liquid lip color is definitely neither. It is, by far, the most comfortable lip product I have ever used. It delivers just the right amount of shine and color, and won't get your kissing license confiscated because it is not thick at all. My shade of choice is a pretty nude-peach-pink, the area in the lip color spectrum I usually find my preferences to be.

TIGI Bedhead Headrush. I am a complete sucker for hair products that don't smell like my *lola*'s perfume (no offense to my grandma!). This shine spray will fool you into thinking you've just stepped into a candy store and Willy Wonka is about to make an appearance.

Not only does it give hair an incredible, non-greasy sheen, it acts like a handy hair freshener, too. So if you're headed for a smoky club but are not too keen on your mane smelling like an ashtray, tote this along and spray on when the need strikes.

TIGI Bedhead available at select salons in Metro Manila (Essensuals Toni & Guy, Emphasis, Bench Fix, and more); Bobbi Brown, Shu Uemura and the Shu by Ai Compact available at Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza; Clean Ultimate and Sugar Baby at Essenses, Rustan's Makati; L'Oreal at PCX, Watson's and department stores.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

> The contents of my daily purse ensure that I am fabulously armed at all times

Sizzling masquerade ball

HEAT WAVES WILL SIMMER THROUGH the walls of the World Trade Center in Pasay City, as CircuitAsia launches the sizzling Salvation Masquerade Ball party on Oct. 28.

From the pulsating West London club scene to most parts of America and Europe, and now here in Asia, the hot and heady Salvation team is making an indelible mark on every city with its electrifying parties.

For the Salvation Masquerade Ball in Manila, three world-class performers are set to ignite an exciting celebration.

DJ Luke Hope is one of London's first proponents of the new West Coast sound that's now sweeping the world by storm.

DJ Pier Morrocco has been pumping his carnival-style house into partyphilic blood systems since he started at London Trade in 1994.

Tonnic is a sultry femme fatale whose gorgeous looks are rivaled only by her hypnotizing vocal prowess and her insatiably energetic dance moves.

Also set to kindle the Salvation party fires are Manila's very own flavorful DJ Bam del Valle and rising local songstress Rizza Navales.

Regular tickets are pre-sold for P400 and VIP tickets for P750. A thousand lucky party-goers will receive complimentary tickets upon buying Generation Pink (GP) Magazine, released last September.

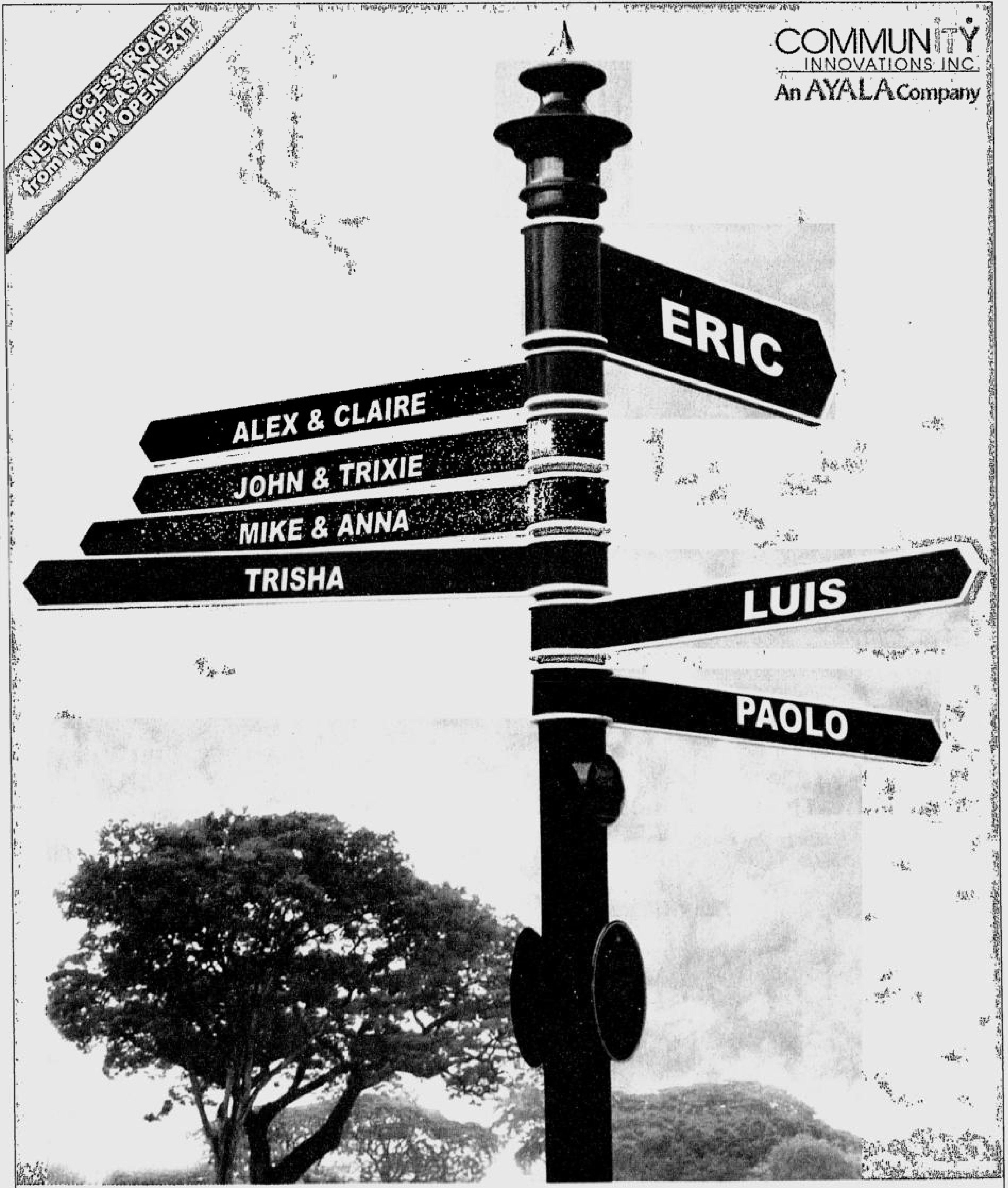
Free passes may also be won by logging on to www.fabuloush.com.

Salvation Masquerade Ball is a production of CircuitAsia for the benefit of the AIDS Awareness-centered Gift Foundation (www.giftfoundation.info).

Among its other upcoming events is a four-day series of parties and sports events set in Boracay Island on April 28-May 1, 2006.

Visit www.circuitasia.com, call 8897851 or e-mail info@circuitasia.com.

CircuitAsia is located at the 11/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave. Cor. Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City.



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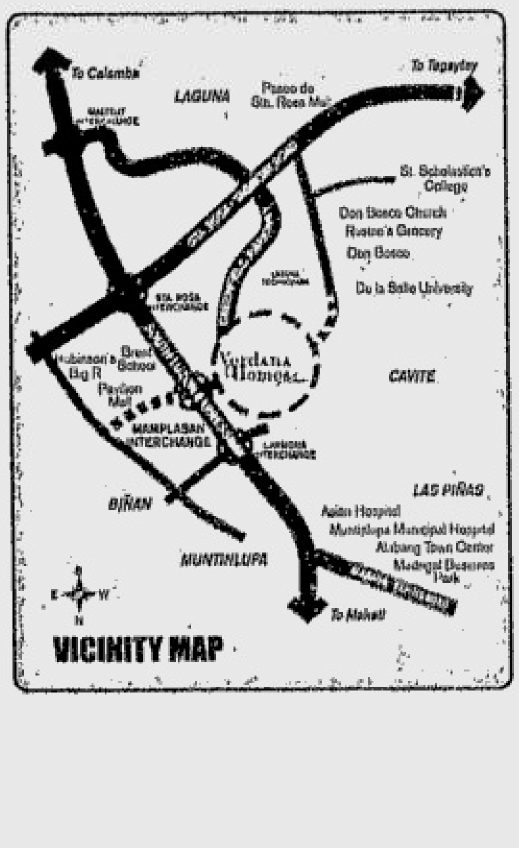

Know your neighbors on a first-name basis.

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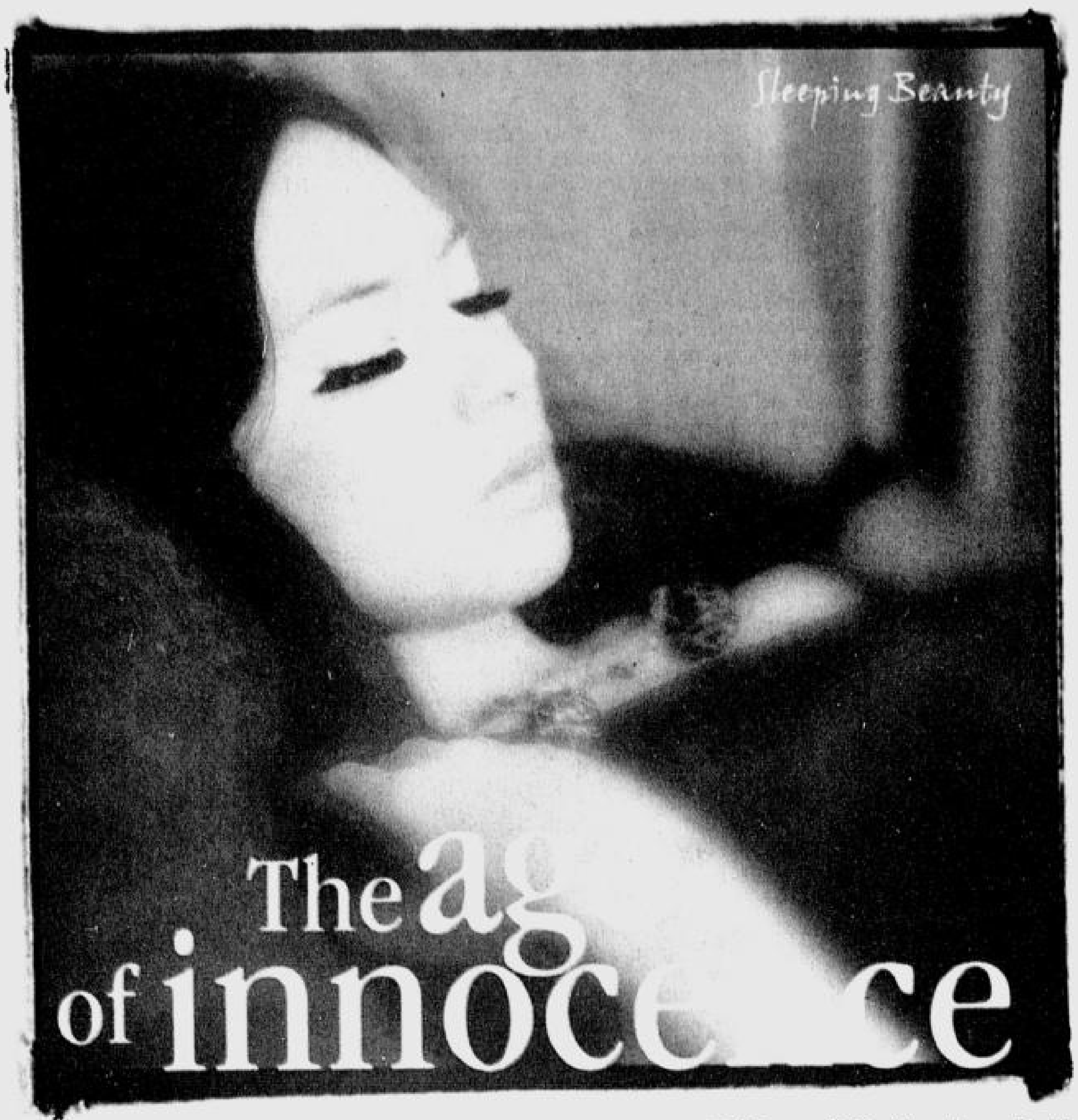

The age of innocence

BLUE gown, X. Necklace, Happy David

PURPLE dress, Karimadon. Pearls and bangle, Happy David

From page C2

then by all means, go for it.

Although it wouldn't be advisable to carry things too far in your everyday life (think of what you'd look like if you bit into an apple and fainted at school), a little daydreaming and music certainly wouldn't hurt. If you've always nurtured a secret dream of becoming Cinderella, then find a gown, tiara and glass slippers for a costume party. The pumpkin carriage and midnight curfew is optional.

Skip the house music for a day and sing along to "Part of Your World" on your iPod. You'll be surprised at how things become more pleasant even for a day. Halloween is supposed to be a scary occasion, but there's no harm in becoming a princess rather than a villain.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Visit the photographer at http://jakee.blogspot.com and the makeup artist at http://tatinacious.blogspot.com

HAIR AND MAKEUP:
TATIN YANG (0917-8382846)
AND GEOLETTE ESGURERRA
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For succeeding entries, just type MMJAZZ raffle code
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3. M&M's® packs with the Jazz Up Your Christmas stickers must be kept and shall be presented for verification purposes in order to claim the prize.
4. Prizes include: Total of 3 units Honda Jazz Cars, 10 units, Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman™ Phones, 100 units Apple Mini I-Pods and 1,000 pcs. CD's from Odyssey Record Bars.
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6. Draws will be held in the presence of a representative from BFAD, Cube Interactive and Master Foods Philippines, Inc.
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8. Verified winners will then be eligible to claim their prize.
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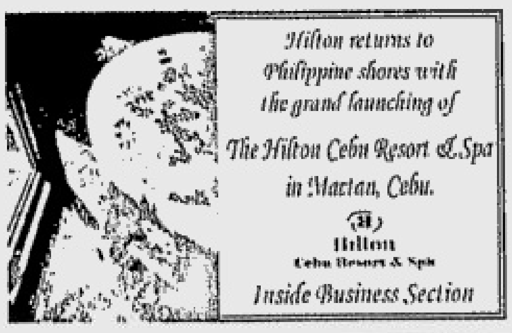

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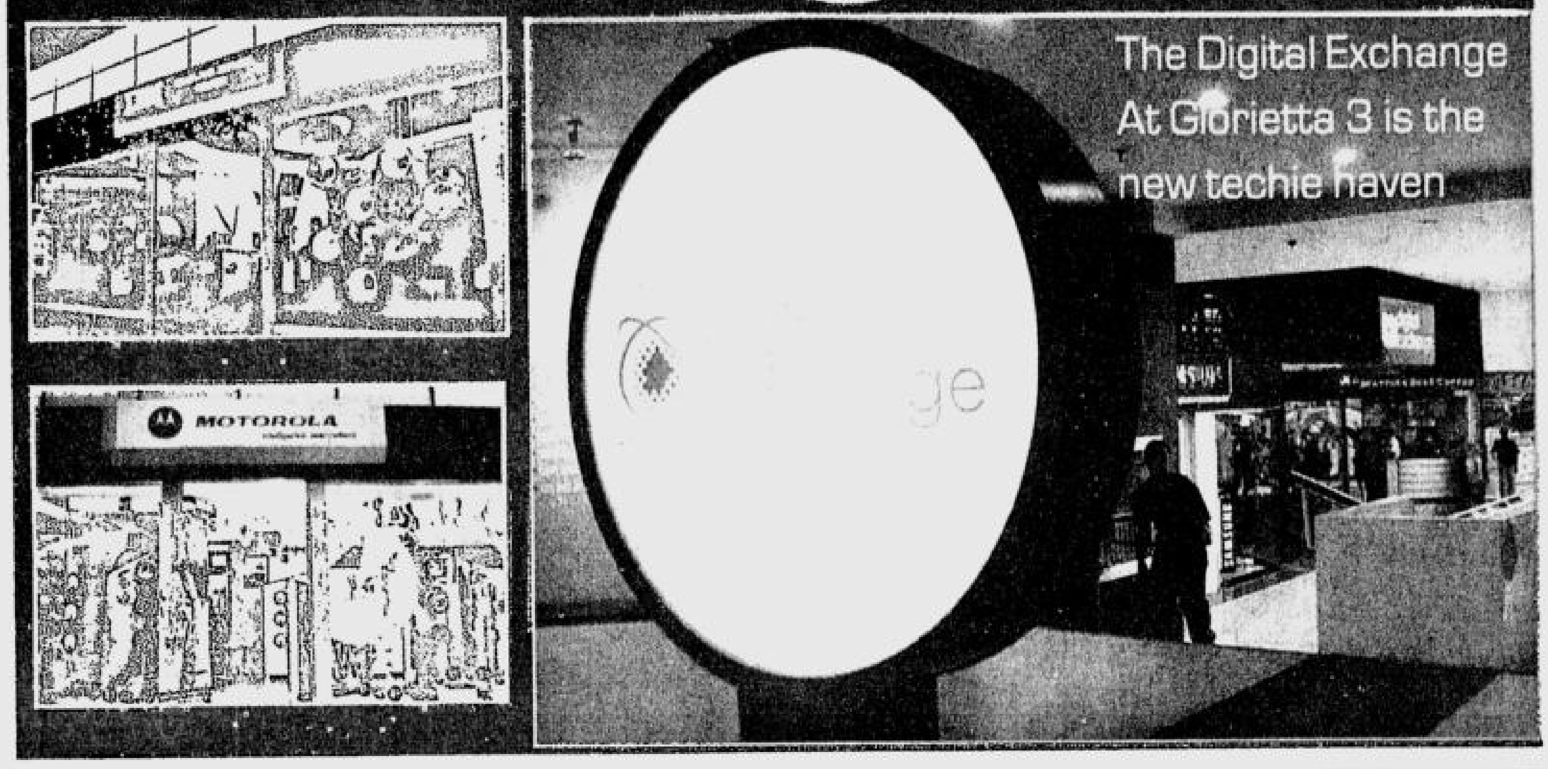

The Digital Exchange At Glorietta 3 is the new techie haven

By Gabriel H. Mercado
Contributor

UP TO ONLY VERY recently, A gadget-lover would be hard put to find a special section of a mall worth spending one's browsing time in. Sure you can find a few, but they'd basically be scattered around a mall in areas such as appliance stores, gadget brand showrooms, photography stores, cell phone *banketas* and even special sections of car accessories shops and hardware stores.

Lately, however, to the appreciation of all gizmo-loving geeks in the whole of the city, the arrival of Digital Exchange—a section just for gadgets, computers, digital cameras, personal digital assistants, mp3 players, laptop computers, phones and related gear has single-handedly added a new shopping experience for this decidedly active buyer demographic. For once, high-end devices aren't sold alongside refrigerators and stove ovens, and friendly staff are sure to be not only well-versed in their technology and application, they are also informed about the

DEN/D3

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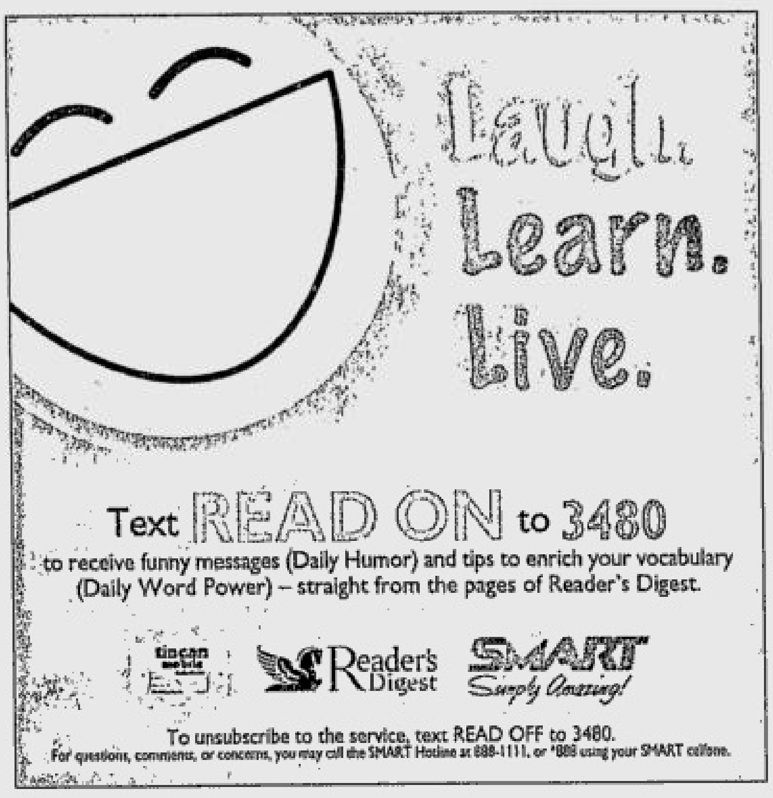

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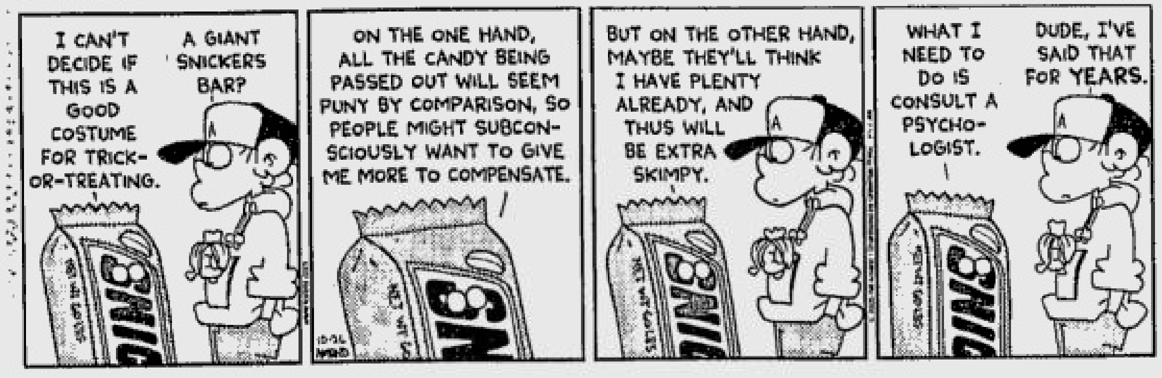
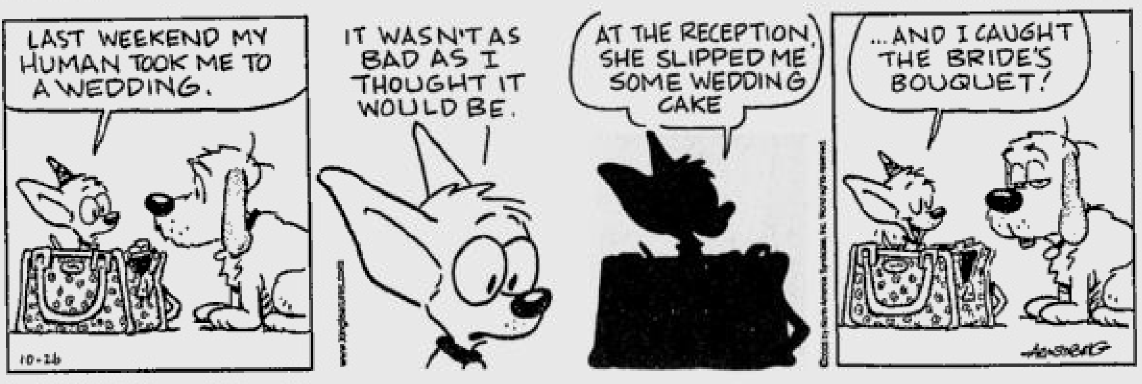
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I CAN'T DECIDE IF THIS IS A GOOD COSTUME FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING.
A GIANT SNICKERS BAR?
ON THE ONE HAND, ALL THE CANDY BEING PASSED OUT WILL SEEM PUNY BY COMPARISON, SO PEOPLE MIGHT SUBCONSCIOUSLY WANT TO GIVE ME MORE TO COMPENSATE.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE THEY'LL THINK I HAVE PLENTY ALREADY, AND THUS WILL BE EXTRA SKIMPY.
WHAT I NEED TO DO IS CONSULT A PSYCHOLOGIST.
DUDE, I'VE SAID THAT FOR YEARS.

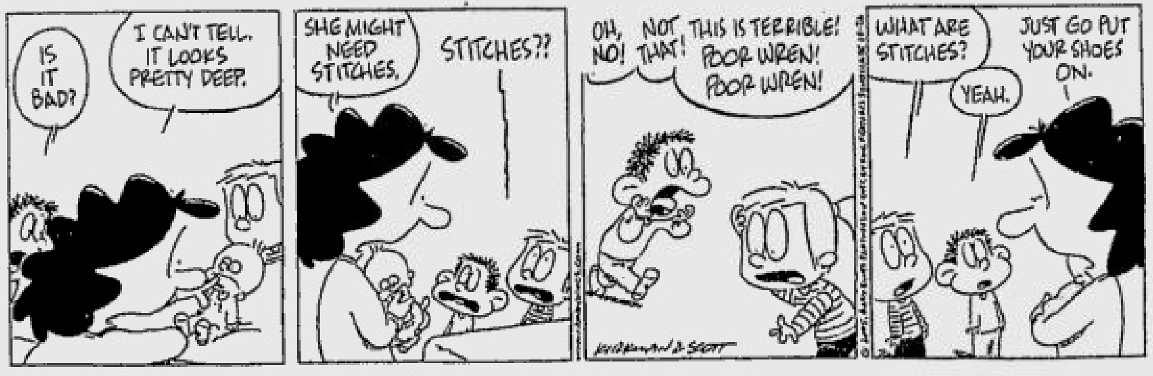
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LAST WEEKEND MY HUMAN TOOK ME TO A WEDDING.
IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
AT THE RECEPTION, SHE SLIPPED ME SOME WEDDING CAKE
...AND I CAUGHT THE BRIDE'S BOUQUET!

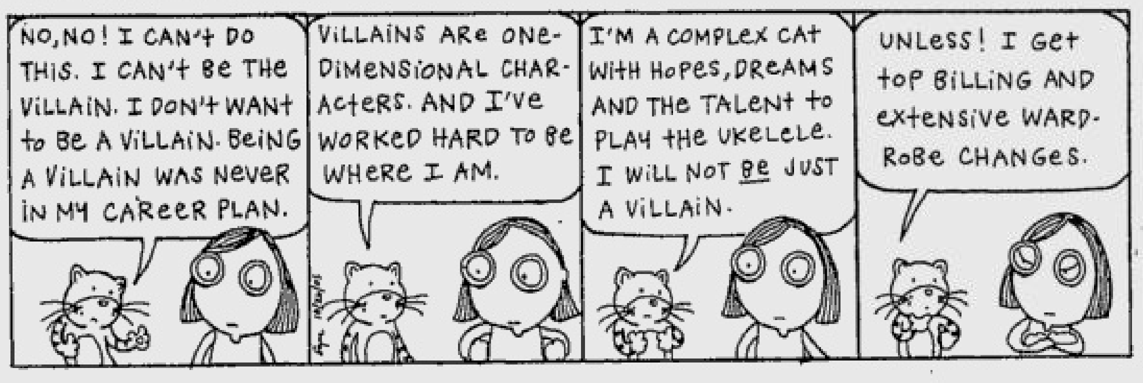
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IS IT BAD?
I CAN'T TELL. IT LOOKS PRETTY DEEP.
SHE MIGHT NEED STITCHES.
STITCHES??
OH, NO!
NOT THAT!
THIS IS TERRIBLE! POOR WREN! POOR WREN!
WHAT ARE STITCHES?
YEAH.
JUST GO PUT YOUR SHOES ON.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NO, NO! I CAN'T DO THIS. I CAN'T BE THE VILLAIN. I DON'T WANT TO BE A VILLAIN. BEING A VILLAIN WAS NEVER IN MY CAREER PLAN.
VILLAINS ARE ONE-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS. AND I'VE WORKED HARD TO BE WHERE I AM.
I'M A COMPLEX CAT WITH HOPES, DREAMS AND THE TALENT TO PLAY THE UKELELE. I WILL NOT BE JUST A VILLAIN.
UNLESS! I GET TOP BILLING AND EXTENSIVE WARDROBE CHANGES.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong people skills. You also have good money sense. That's why others look to you for direction. Your hard work and organizational skills make you shine! Carve out time to be by yourself in the year ahead so that you can explore a new learning path. Profound truths are coming your way.
Birthdate of: Hillary Rodham Clinton, politician; Bob Hoskins, actor; Pat Sajak, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): One of the things you can look forward to in the year ahead is being on the receiving end of the generosity of others. Keep your pockets open!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Things are going to look better and better with partnerships and long-term relationships. Close friendships will also improve in the year ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Now and in the next few months, you'll enter a yearlong period where your job and job opportunities will improve fantastically! Say goodbye to your horrible boss.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You find it easier and easier to believe in yourself now. This is good. Continue to focus on helping or working with children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): All Leos will experience much joy with respect to home and family in the year ahead. This will start now or months from now, depending on when you were born. The year 2007 will be excellent for real estate!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): As Jupiter now shifts signs, it starts to crank up your optimism levels. You finally start to believe you have a future! (That's where you'll spend the rest of your life.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Ooh la la! Your financial scene is going to improve in the year ahead—soon for some, later for others. Count on spending more as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Yesterday, Jupiter moved into your sign for the first time since 1993. Yeehaw! Come to Mama! Baby needs a new pair of shoes! Your good fortune will flourish in the next 13 months.

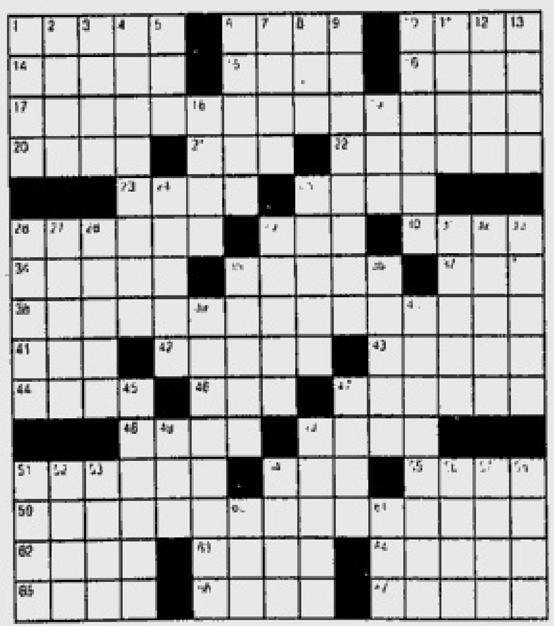
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Changing conditions trigger your interest in certain spiritual themes. Explore whatever interests you. Keep your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your popularity rating will go way up in the next 18 months. Accept all initiations. Join groups and clubs. People want to see your face!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your career is going to take off in the next six months, and it's going to be blessed with opportunities and good fortune for the next 18 months! Go for what you want!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel opportunities and chances to broaden your experience of the world through study and training will come to you in the year ahead. You want to fly!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/26/05

ACROSS
1 Gracie or Woody
6 Pith
10 Liner, e.g.
14 Nine Inch __
15 Asian sea
16 "Damn Yankees" role
17 Quit the spa?
20 Baghdad's land
21 Derek and Jackson
22 Beepers
23 Title role for Peter Fonda
25 Mint family member
26 Do over again
29 One half of a dance?
30 Amateur sports org.
34 Happening
35 Solo
37 Start-up buttons
38 Quit standup comedy?
41 Sale-tag abbr.
42 Embody
43 "__ Hall"
44 Subway station
46 "__ Kapital"
47 Virginia and Georgia
48 Small vipers
50 Guitarist Atkins
51 Greek city-state
54 B'way theater sign
55 Old sound system
59 Quit the chess club?
62 About
63 Le Gallienne and Gabor
64 Stink
65 Not e'en once
66 Cloth scraps
67 Sticking stuff

DOWN
1 Against: pref.
2 Cowardly Lion portrayer
3 Old money in Milano
4 Silver-tongued
5 Austral. state
6 Hiawatha's transportation
7 Table scraps
8 Yay, team!
9 Dumbo, for one
10 Catch phrase
11 Inventor Elias
12 Robert of "The Sopranos"
13 Best friends
18 Skeptic's retort
19 Mai __ cocktail
24 Shaping machine
25 Picked out
26 Host Philbin
27 Chris of tennis
28 Oil: pref.
29 Santa __
31 Total number
32 Actress Dickinson
33 Frank McCourt's "Angela's __"
35 Robert and Alan
36 Put on cloud nine
39 First or last page of a book
40 Bete noire
45 Clyde's Bonnie
47 Haberdashery or boutique
49 R-V hookup
50 Pungent salad ingredient
51 Pirouette
52 Evergreen
53 Pasture piece
54 Uneven hairdo
56 Clinches
57 Fingered
58 Wight or Skye
60 New Deal agcy.
61 AOL, for one

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

G	N	A	W	■	E	D	M	O	N	D	■	H	E	X
R	A	R	E	■	G	R	A	C	I	E	■	I	A	M
I	N	K	B	L	O	T	T	E	S	T	■	T	R	A
P	O	S	T	I	T	■	I	L	S	■	E	P	P	S
■	■	■	V	A	R	■	S	L	E	E	K	■	■	■
V	C	R	■	M	I	S	S	I	N	G	L	I	N	K
I	L	I	L	■	P	I	E	■	■	G	A	L	E	A
S	I	A	M	E	S	E	■	A	G	O	N	I	E	S
A	C	T	O	R	■	■	F	R	I	■	D	A	D	E
S	K	A	T	I	N	G	R	I	N	K	■	D	S	M
■	■	■	E	N	O	L	A	■	G	E	E	■	■	■
[illegible]	H	[illegible]	S	■	[illegible]	A	N	■	H	E	A	T	H	S
R	O	N	■	P	I	N	K	P	A	N	T	H	E	R
M	A	H	■	S	O	D	I	U	M	■	L	E	R	O
A	R	E	■	I	N	S	E	T	S	■	N	O	D	S

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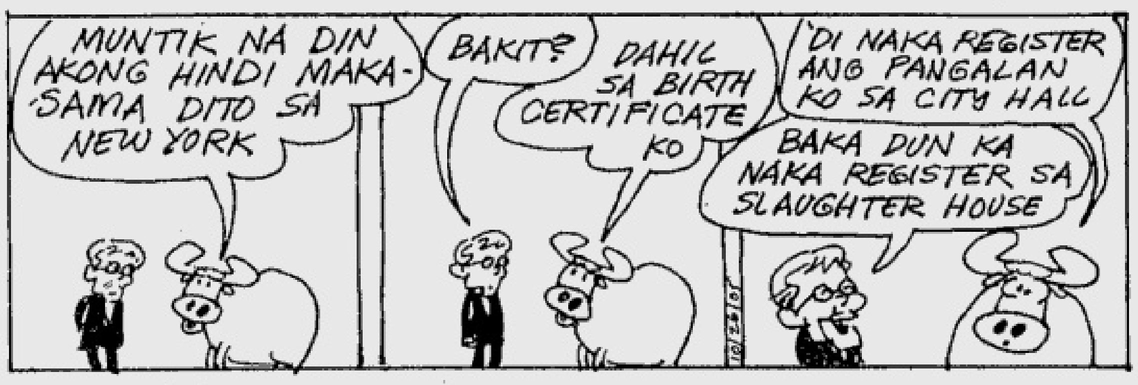
10/25/05

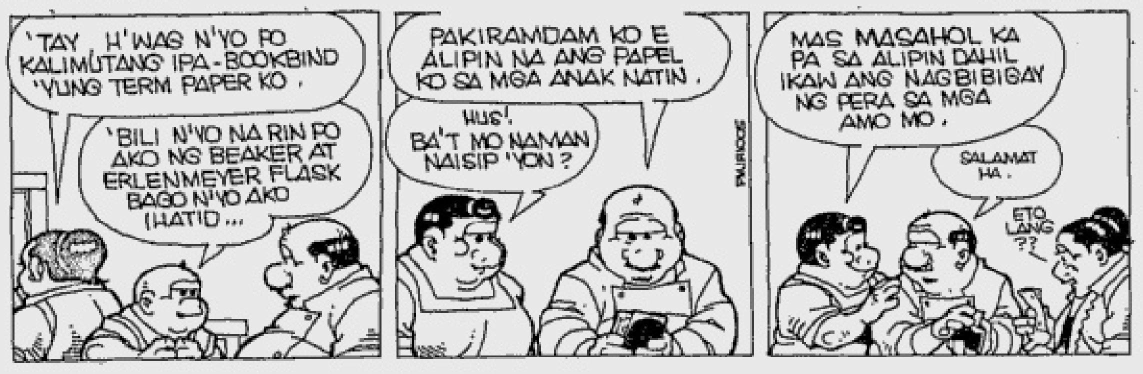
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MUNTIK NA DIN AKONG HINDI MAKA-SAMA DITO SA NEW YORK
BAKIT?
DAHIL SA BIRTH CERTIFICATE KO
'DI NAKA REGISTER ANG PANGALAN KO SA CITY HALL
BAKA DUN KA NAKA REGISTER SA SLAUGHTER HOUSE

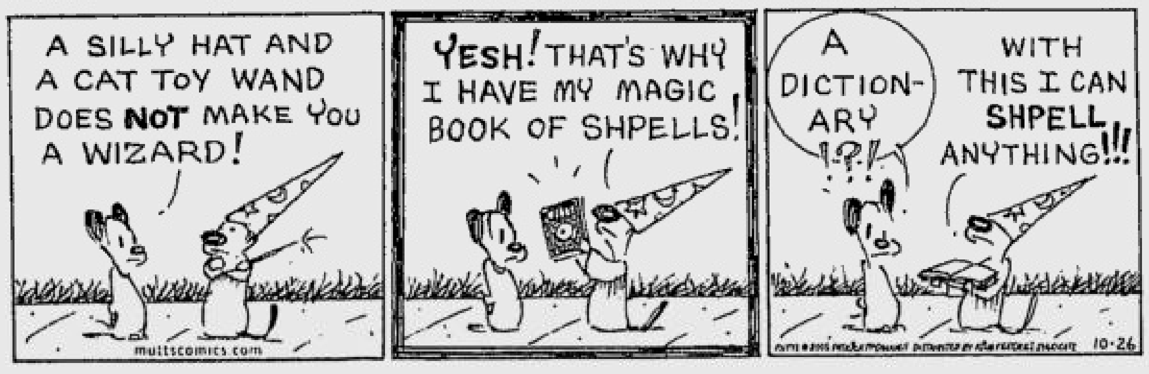
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY, H'WAG N'YO PO KALIMUTANG IPA-BOOKBIND 'YUNG TERM PAPER KO.
'BILI N'YO NA RIN PO AKO NG BEAKER AT ERLENMEYER FLASK BAGO N'YO AKO IHATID...
PAKIRAMDAM KO E ALIPIN NA ANG PAPEL KO SA MGA ANAK NATIN.
HUS'! BA'T MO NAMAN NAISIP 'YON?
MAS MASAHOL KA PA SA ALIPIN DAHIL IKAW ANG NAGBIBIGAY NG PERA SA MGA AMO MO.
SALAMAT HA.
ETO LANG ??

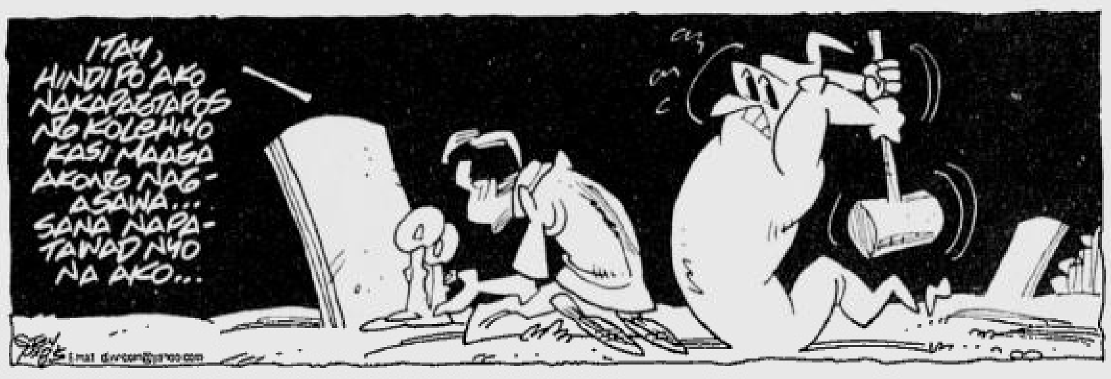
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A SILLY HAT AND A CAT TOY WAND DOES NOT MAKE YOU A WIZARD!
YESH! THAT'S WHY I HAVE MY MAGIC BOOK OF SHPELLS!
A DICTIONARY !?!
WITH THIS I CAN SHPELL ANYTHING!!!
muttscomics.com

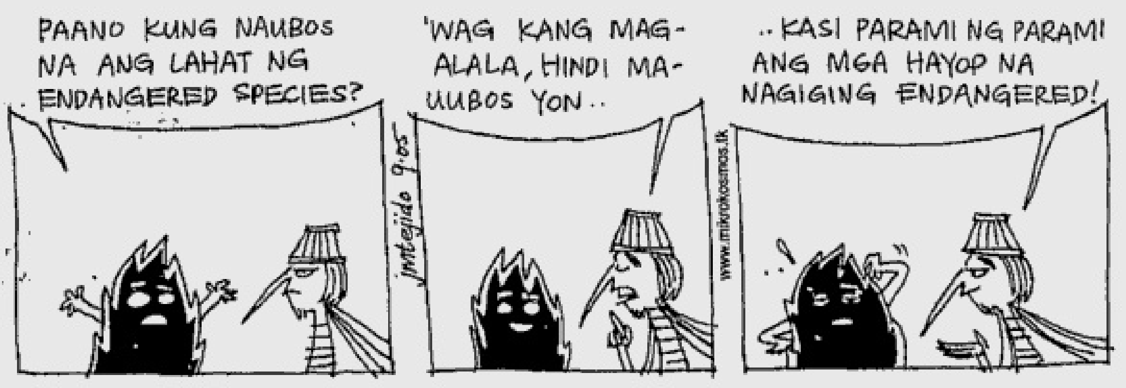
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ITAY, HINDI PO AKO NAKAPAGTAPOS NG KOLEHIYO KASI MAAGA AKONG NAG-ASAWA... SANA NAPATAWAD N'YO NA AKO...

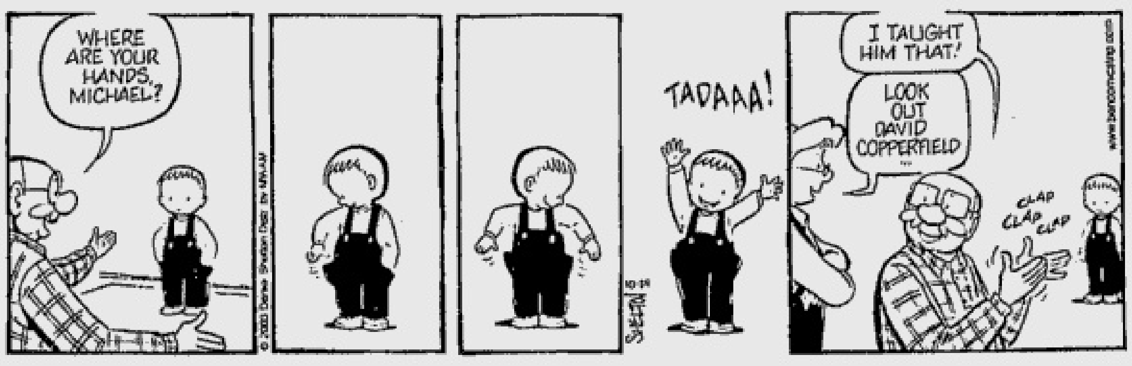
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAANO KUNG NAUBOS NA ANG LAHAT NG ENDANGERED SPECIES?
'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA, HINDI MAUUBOS YON..
..KASI PARAMI NG PARAMI ANG MGA HAYOP NA NAGIGING ENDANGERED!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

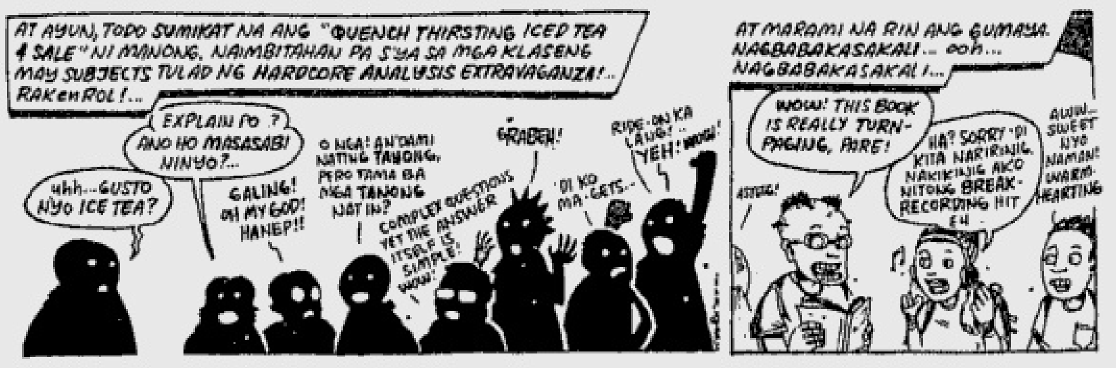
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHERE ARE YOUR HANDS, MICHAEL?
TADAAA!
I TAUGHT HIM THAT!
LOOK OUT DAVID COPPERFIELD
CLAP CLAP CLAP

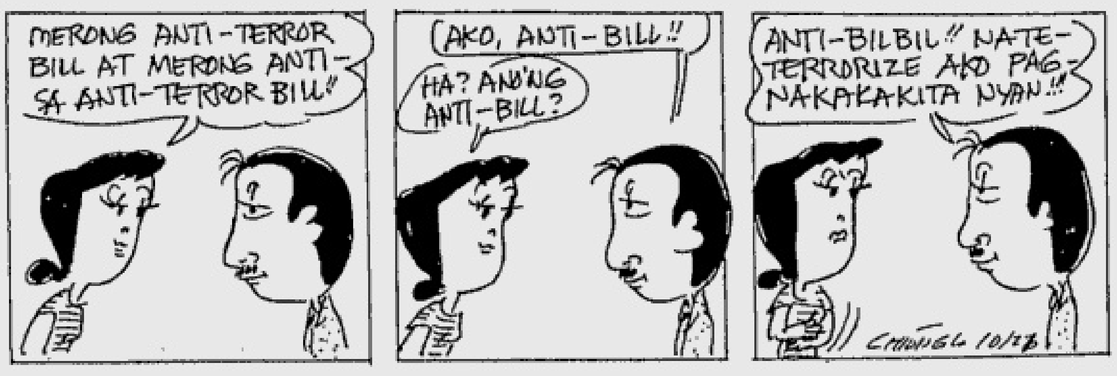
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AT AYUN, TODO SUMIKAT NA ANG "QUENCH THIRSTING ICED TEA 4 SALE" NI MANONG. NAIMBITAHAN PA S'YA SA MGA KLASENG MAY SUBJECTS TULAD NG HARDCORE ANALYSIS EXTRAVAGANZA!.. RAKenROL!...
uhh...GUSTO N'YO ICE TEA?
EXPLAIN PO? ANO HO MASASABI NINYO?..
GALING! OH MY GOD! HANEP!!
O NGA! AN'DAMI NATING TANONG, PERO TAMA BA MGA TANONG NATIN?
COMPLEX QUESTIONS YET THE ANSWER ITSELF IS SIMPLE! WOW!
GRABEH!
'DI KO MA-GETS..
RIDE-ON KA LANG!..
YEH! WOW!
AT MARAMI NA RIN ANG GUMAYA. NAGBABAKASAKALI... ooh... NAGBABAKASAKALI...
WOW! THIS BOOK IS REALLY TURN-PAGING, PARE!
ASTIG!
HA? SORRY 'DI KITA NARIRINIG. NAKIKINIG AKO NITONG BREAK-RECORDING HIT EH.
AWW... SWEET NYO NAMAN! WARM-HEARTING

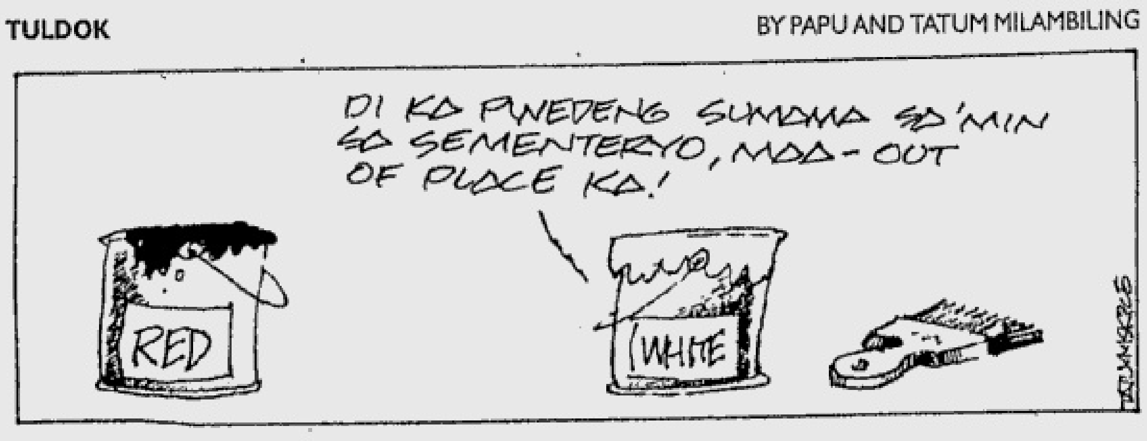
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MERONG ANTI-TERROR BILL AT MERONG ANTI-SA ANTI-TERROR BILL!!
(AKO, ANTI-BILL!!
HA? ANO'NG ANTI-BILL?
ANTI-BILBIL!! NATE-TERRORIZE AKO PAG-NAKAKAKITA NYAN!!
CHIONGLO 10/26

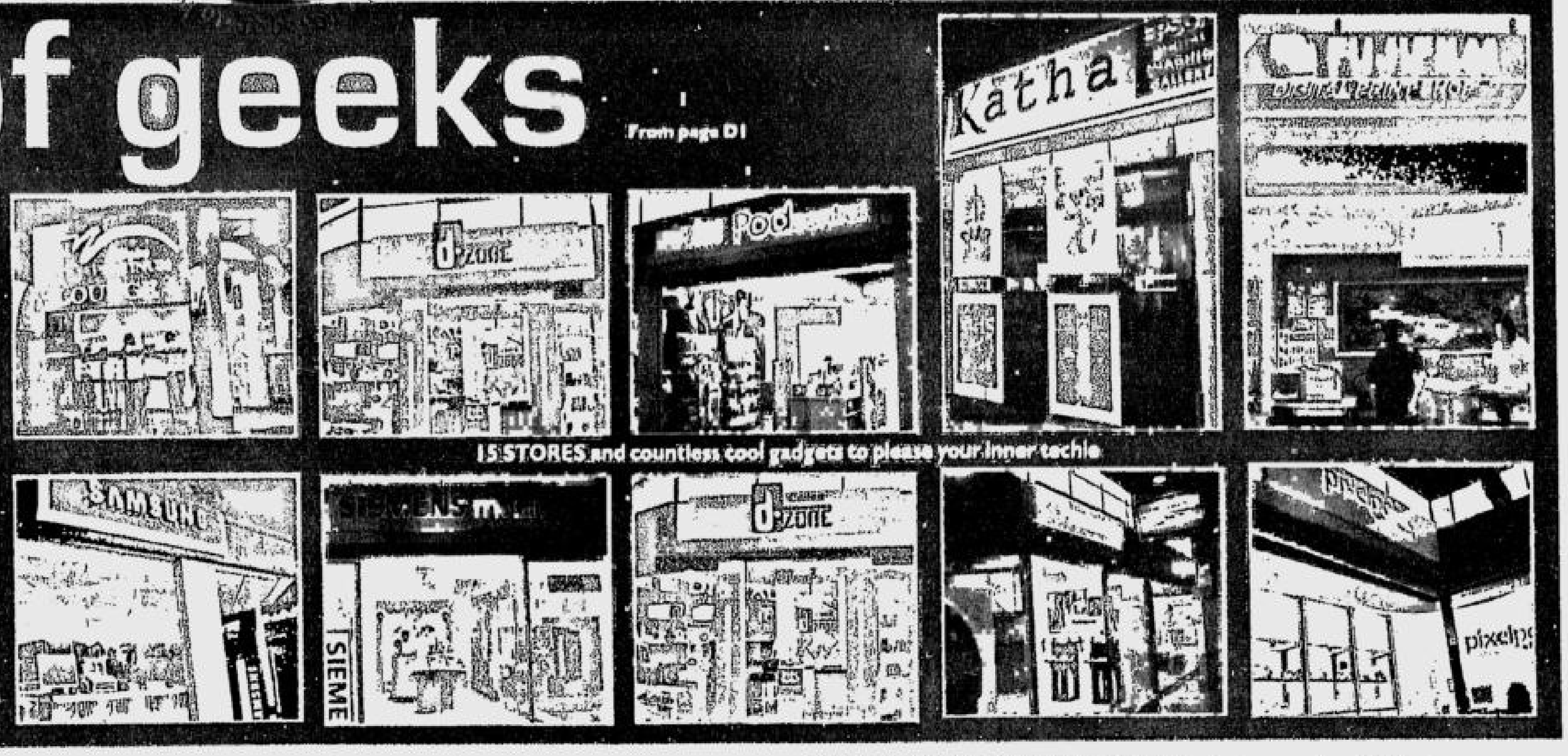
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA PWEDENG SUMAMA SA'MIN SA SEMENTERYO, MA-OUT OF PLACE KA!
RED
WHITE

Den of geeks

From page D1



15 STORES and countless cool gadgets to please your inner techie

important details of the products they sell, being employees of the brand they represent. A welcome departure from, say, your average generic cell phone stall with little brand affinity and therefore lack of interest in the nitty-gritty information that gadget geeks crave.

Checking out the Digital Exchange, on the third floor of Glorietta 3 Ayala Malls Makati, is a welcome respite for me from the usual hodgepodge of stores offering the same devices. Not only does it serve the basic selling and stocking of these items, as representatives of name brands in the industry their storekeepers are a repository of information about these items that I have, at many times as a writer reviewing such products, needed to make an informed decision on.

As such, the very top brands in the country are well represented, namely: the Nokia Store, Motorola Store, Sony Ericsson, Hewlett Packard, Panasonic, Siemens Mobile, iPod, PalmOne, Canon d-zone, Epson, Samsung, IBM, Fuji Film, Pixel Point, and Globe Telecom and Platinum Lounge.

Fifteen stores offering the very latest technology their companies provide, but providing information you need to make an informed purchase unavailable from your average third party computer or gadget store.

Many firsts

Managing director Gary Ramirez makes a distinction about the Digital Exchange succinctly, "Our vision with Ayala malls was to put up a section offering the very best gadget products and services offered nowhere else in the city—and in Asia. The distinction being that customers are helped along by the service and staff from the manufacturer itself, as opposed to a generic reseller offering 15 different brands."

Ramirez assured me doing so was no easy task, "All these brands usually congregate during expos only. In our case, this is a permanent basis. The closest is Singapore, however; there isn't any other in Asia. Every mall wants to do this cutting-edge concept. But putting together all these brands is difficult as it involves dealing with all the regional offices of these brands. [We have the] first Motorola store, the first IBM store and service center, Sony Ericsson offers the 'first new concept,' Epson gallery is a first in the Philippines, the Samsung store is a first and the Globe Lounge is a first."

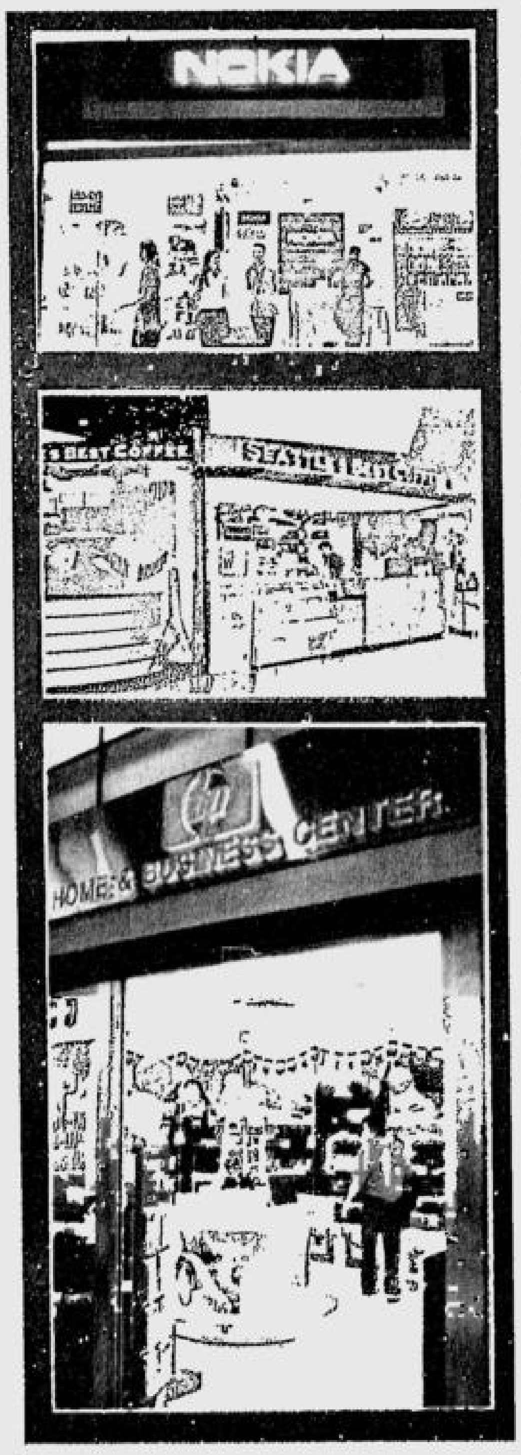
Doing so pays dividends for the customer, Ramirez said. "Most other concepts have resellers reselling the same thing. They are essentially competing. There you cannot, for example, handle the gadget. Digital Exchange urges the customer to communicate with the staff. The sales persons are more knowledgeable with the items they sell and buyers can really compare by asking questions and holding and testing the product."

But doesn't this increase the price, "Manufacturers urge resellers to strictly adhere to SRP (suggested retail price), and therefore never would they go below or above the SRP," Ramirez said. "Dealing with the manufacturer also gives you complete warrantees and guarantees that only the manufacturer can provide. A lot of the stores have their own service centers."

Stand-out

The concept of having the actual brand put up a store instead of relying on resellers has obvious and immediate benefits to buyers. A

DEN/ D4



And if you have missed our microwave spot too, read on.

One night Maria cooked dinner for eight children and one male chauvinist. She roasted the chicken.

Broiled the dog. Baked the bread. Boiled the nipple. Nuked the popcorn.

Stewed the fish. Glazed the ham.

One of Maria's favorite things.

Then she set the table and called the family. "Leisl, Friedrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, Gretl"

But the kids took time. So she blew the whistle just like a Stabshauptmann of the Gestapo

(Moral: Watch more primetime TV so you won't miss our spots again.)

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2bU!
birthday
BLOWOUT

Win this phone!

WE'VE SAID THIS MANY TIMES AND we won't get tired of saying it: It's 2bU!'s birthday month and because we wouldn't be here without you, we'll be giving away great prizes for the rest of the year.

Think of it as our grand birthday blowout. This week is the start of our tie-up with our favorite geeky hangout—Digital Exchange. Digital Exchange and 2bU! will be telling you about some really cool gadgets in the coming weeks, and the best part is, every week, one lucky reader can win that gadget.

This week, we're giving away a Samsung SGH-E730. If you want to join our contest, tell us why you deserve to win this phone in the most creative way you can. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget your name, school/office and contact info!

SAMSUNG SGH-E730

One lucky phone

Camera addicts will love this phone

By Gabriel H. Mercado

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, SOME lucky person is going to win this excellent phone, the operative word being "lucky," as you will most certainly be, and "excellent," as this phone surely is.

Of the 27 cell phone models mentioned on Samsung's website, the SGH-E730 ranks as among those in the third of four brackets to the highest model. From the affordable, almost generic models at the bottom to the middle line with improved features, the E730 gains a great deal more recognition via its distinctive sleek, black color, unobtrusive lightweight and compact clamshell design. So compact you might occasionally need to frantically check your pockets to be sure you still have it as I ended up doing, being used to an only slightly bigger but heavier phone.

Specs

Of the multitude of features available on phones today, the E730 is certainly no slouch. You've got the standards like a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) 2.0 browser, GPRS, a voice recorder, 64 poly ring tones support, MMS & Bluetooth connectivity, a Timer and Stopwatch, Currency Converter, Calculator, and all that we expect from phones these days.

The special features stand out, starting with a whopping 1.3-megapixel camera and camcorder with flash, an MP3 player that also supports AAC, and Photo Caller ID that comes naturally from having a camera, MMS and Bluetooth.

It also has an FM Radio, a GSM 900/1800 and 1900 capability, and the ability to send and receive up to five e-mail accounts. It also can download and play Java games and a calendar. All delivered via a very bright 176px X 220px TFT screen supporting 262144 colors, stored on 128mb of internal flash memory (88mb shared) and battery talk time support of 5 hours, 260 hours standby time.

Ease of use

Like anyone starting out with a new phone of a different make and brand, it takes a while to "unlearn" the way you normally navigate around the menu and its many functions like making calls, and in this country most importantly, sending SMS.

Samsung phones are fairly easy to learn, what with the colorful menu system with clear icons and easy-to-remember codes such as 'Menu > 5 > 2' to check out your inbox.

After opening the box, I was able to start comfortably sending and receiving SMS. I also started taking picture after picture five minutes after that.

Much later while in transit at an Ayala-bound FX, I managed to make the FM radio auto-program itself and enjoyed my own choice of music, successfully drowning out the horrid Yes FM, the radio station of choice of every sadistic FX, bus and taxi driver all over the Metro.

For that purpose alone I'd give every cell phone built-in radio and MP3 player a solid thumbs-up, especially easy to use ones like this.

No doubt, the phone's front screen, delivering information such as what FM station or MP3 file you are listening to and a waiting message or a missed call, alongside the time and date, battery level and signal indicator without having to open the clamshell—is a significant plus and an absolute requirement in my opinion for every clamshell phone.

The E730 also has an additional three buttons to activate either the MP3 player or the FM Radio, with Play, Pause, Next Song/Station or Most Recent Song/Station, again all without having to open the clamshell.

Even the earphones have a stop-button function, negating the need to even touch the phone while listening to your tunes, a terrific addition I value in any listening device let alone a phone.

The best feature has to be the 1.3mpixel camera, allowing you to take shots up to 1280x1024 pixels, and for the camera addicts, the ability to take a shot or video of yourself again without opening the clamshell.

Den of geeks

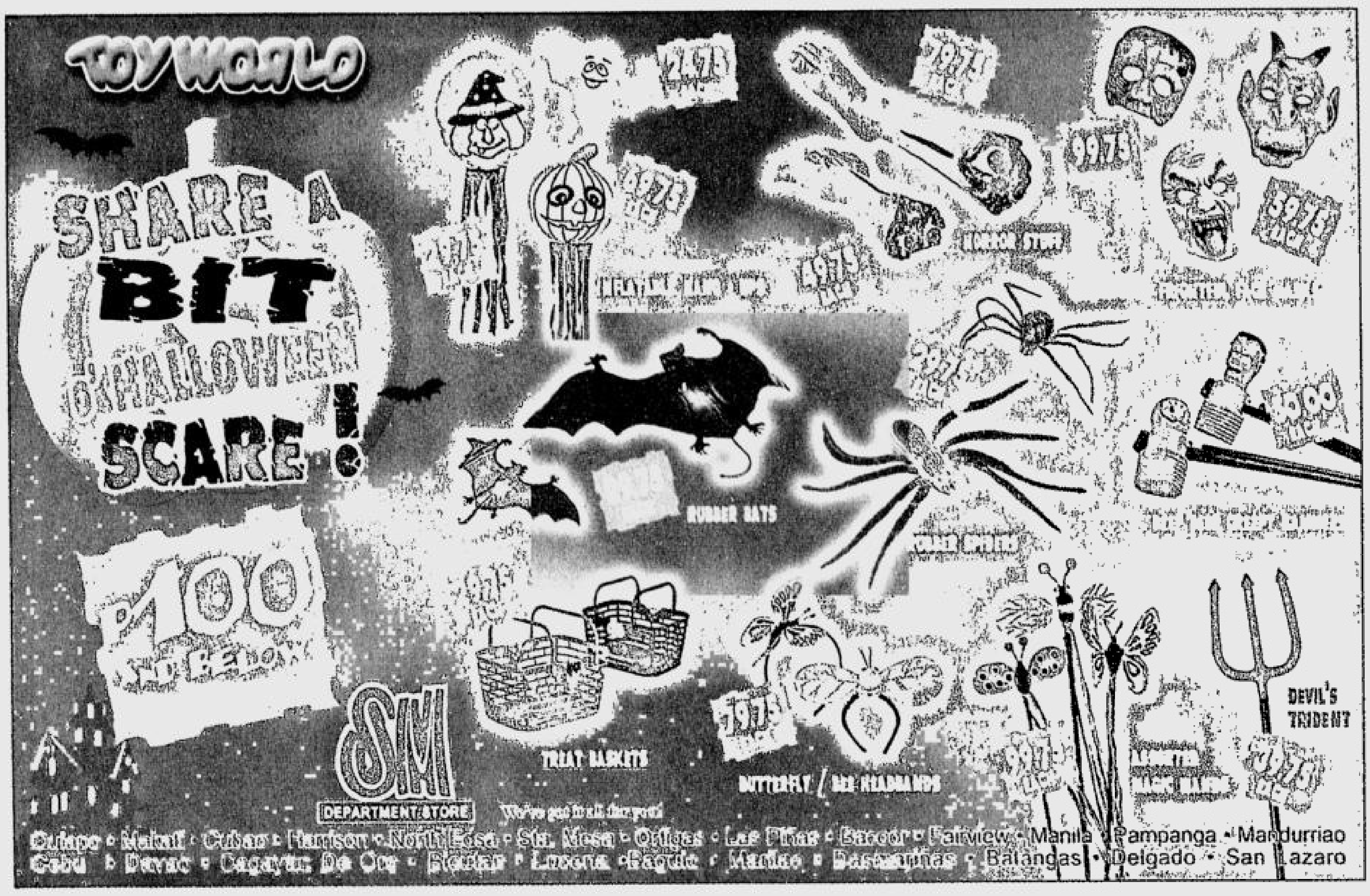
From page D3

good example would be Digital Exchange's PalmOne. Here, personal digital assistant (PDA) owners of damaged PalmOne products under warranty can receive replacements of their units immediately, as opposed to reseller who would need time to confer with the manufacturer.

Also, shopping for an IBM ThinkPad at an actual IBM store is an obviously better shopping experience as all my questions were answered completely: "Which model is the best seller?," "Which model is the 'Toyota Corolla' of ThinkPads?" and "Which is the 'Mercedes Benz?'"

Even specifically tech questions like "Can you put non-IBM branded RAM into a ThinkPad?" are answered without the asker receiving a smirk, giggle or otherwise strange look from the shopkeeper, or worse, an uninformed response.

As informative as websites are, however, you can only find out certain things from knowledgeable storekeepers, like which unit is the most defective by asking "Which part [or unit] was replaced most often?" and which unit is really best in the real world, like "How often do you get this model returned?" Not to mention a quick way of avoiding to have to read a confusing brochure altogether, which is how I found out about Samsung's line of cell phones for another article, by asking, "Among the lineup, what makes this model [the one I was holding], different from the rest?," to which I got straightforward clear answers from a salesperson named Angie.


TOY WORLD
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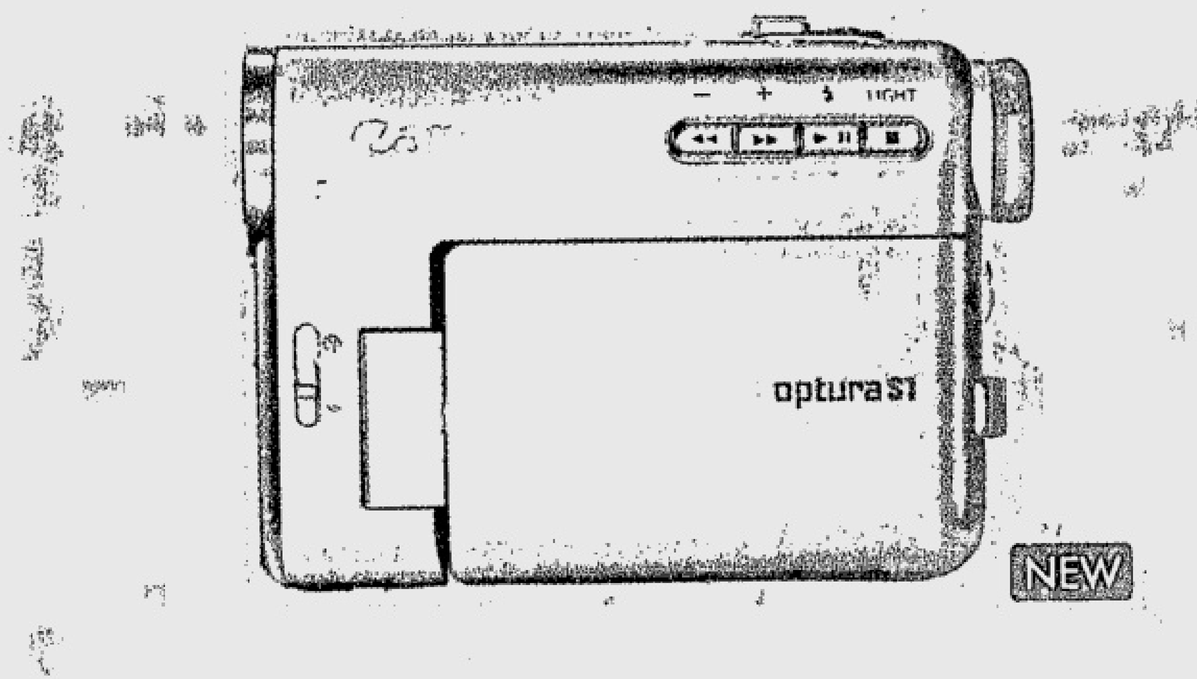
Batangas • Delgado • San Lazaro

Canon
Delighting You Always

Canon Optura S1 Digital Camcorder
Premium Simplicity



Behold a masterpiece in minimalism. Yet its amazing simplicity is anything but simplistic. For you only need to look beyond its clean, stylish lines to discover exceptional innovations that make Canon the undisputed leader in camcorder technology. Even with such premium cutting-edge features packed inside, shooting breathtaking images remains breathtakingly simple. Now isn't that simply perfect?

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DIGIC DV

LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PEPSI'S Fantastic Four: rock star Bamboo, actor Jericho Rosales, model Nicole Hernandez and karting champ Matteo Guidicelli

'Kaya Mo 'To!' is the new youth mantra

Four new endorsers embody the Pepsi can-do spirit

A GOOD MESSAGE must be told, and Pepsi does this with conviction. Through the "Kaya Mo 'To" campaign, Pepsi declares its sense of energy and exploration—away from apathy and ho-hum existence and toward individualism and adventure.

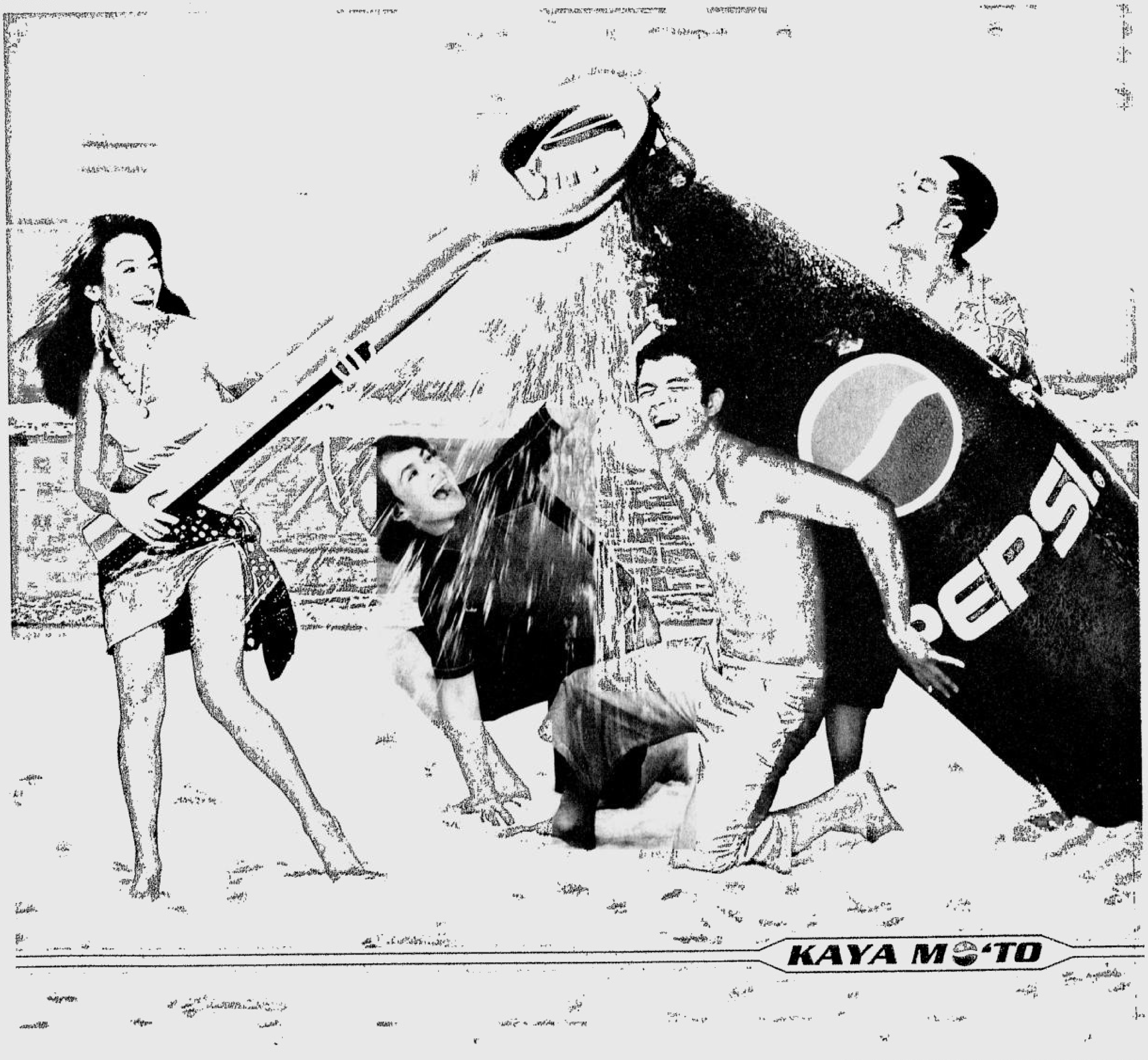
The campaign is personified by Pepsi's newest endorsers who search for excellence, the same spirit at the core of the campaign.

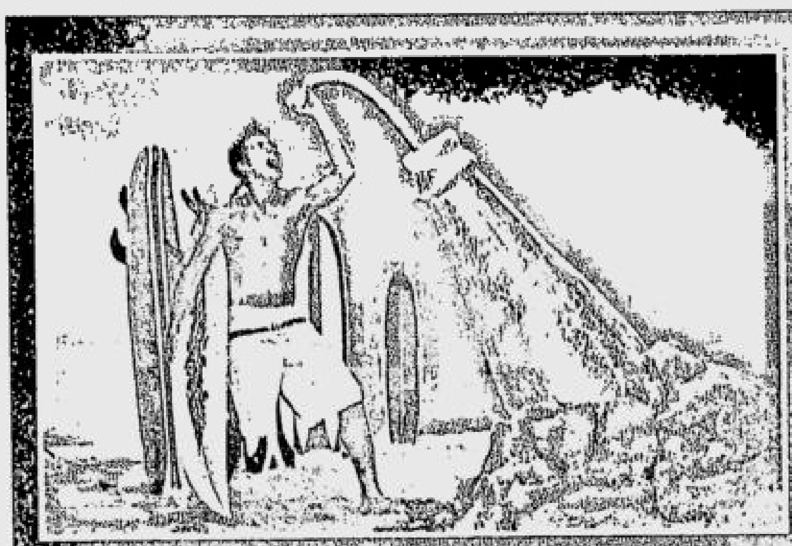
Actor Jericho Rosales leads the pack. Who could forget his first Pepsi commercial in which he dives for a cooler full of his favorite cola as his jeepney plummets to its doom? That sense of daring is central to both Jericho and Pepsi. Despite his busy schedule, especially shooting the television fantasy series, "Ang Panday," Jericho still makes time for his other passion—surfing.

The youngest endorser is karter Matteo Guidicelli, whose youthful exuberance and stunning Filipino-Italian looks are a stand-out. His victories in racing have not only stunned veteran racers, but also inspired hopes that the Philippines would excel in the international racing circuit.

Model Nicole Hernandez is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable faces in the country. As a fashion model, she has stuck to the simple and natural look,

'KAYA MO 'TO'/ E4





SURF'S UP: Jericho gets ready for his solo shot.

PREPARING for the group shot

BBDO-GO's Gino Cruz, Nicole, Pepsi's Randy Aguirre, Bamboo and Jericho in between takes

NICOL

BAMBOO being prepped for the shoot

BAMBOO with master lensman Jun de Leon

QUENCHING his big thirst with a giant Pepsi

JUN de

The making o

ENERGY AND PASSION were the order of the day when the newest Pepsi ambassadors posed in front of the cameras for the second salvo of the Kaya Mo 'To campaign.

Jericho Rosales, the newly christened Panday, led the pack, being the bridge between the past group and this new one.

The actor-surfer served as the stabilizing factor in the shoots. He basically pointed the way so that karting champ Matteo Guidicelli, model Nicole Hernandez and rock star Bamboo could summon the energy level required of them. It was like riding a gigantic wave for him, and he took his whole team for the ride.

Matteo is no stranger to fast-paced and quick-thinking fun. The young achiever is the present local karting prince, following in the tracks of Filipino greats like Pocholo Ramirez, Pepon Marave and Formula 3 sensation Tyson Sy. Matteo clowned around with the rest of the ambassadors, showing them what it meant to have fun while also looking good and thinking fast on his feet.

The only lady in the bunch was Nicole, but this did not stop her from being just one of the guys. Nicole hit it on very quickly with the other ambassadors and easily got on their good side. How could they refuse such a face?

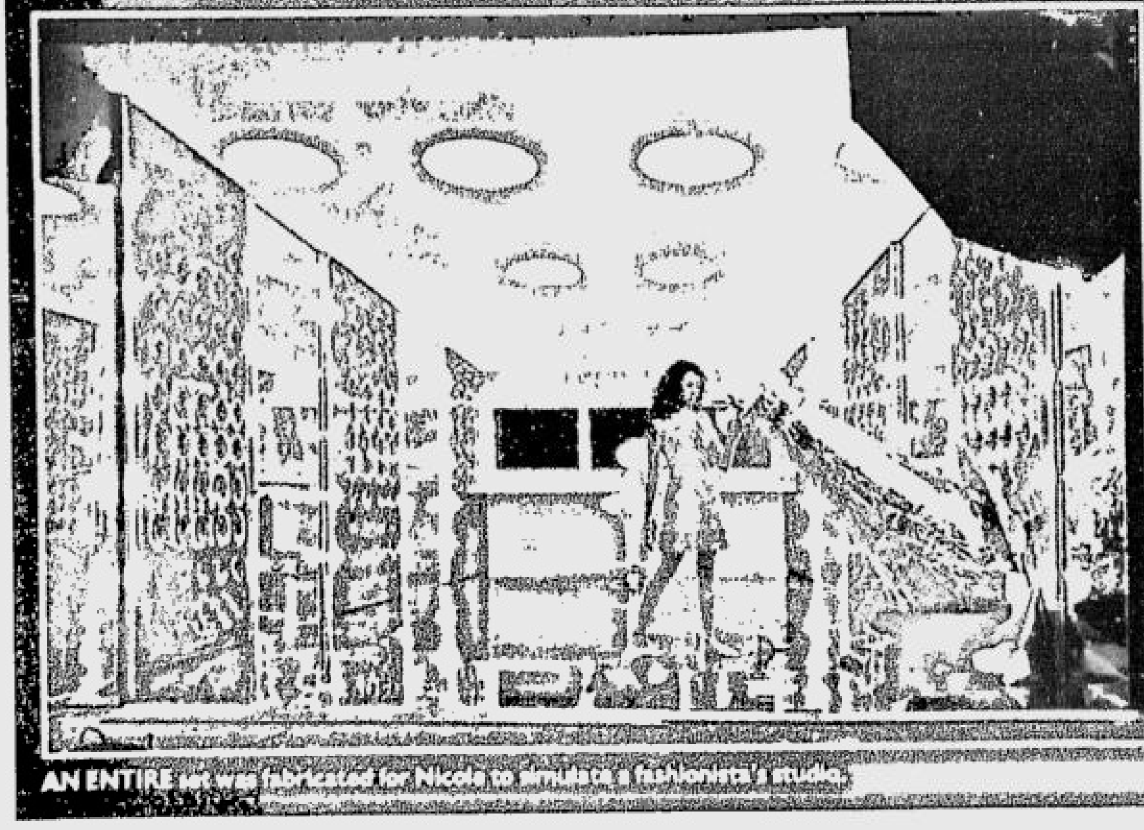
Bamboo, of the award-winning singing group that bears his name, handled the shoot like a song, exhibiting loose, laid-back and free-flowing movements that

PEPSI recreates the racing track with a huge production set.

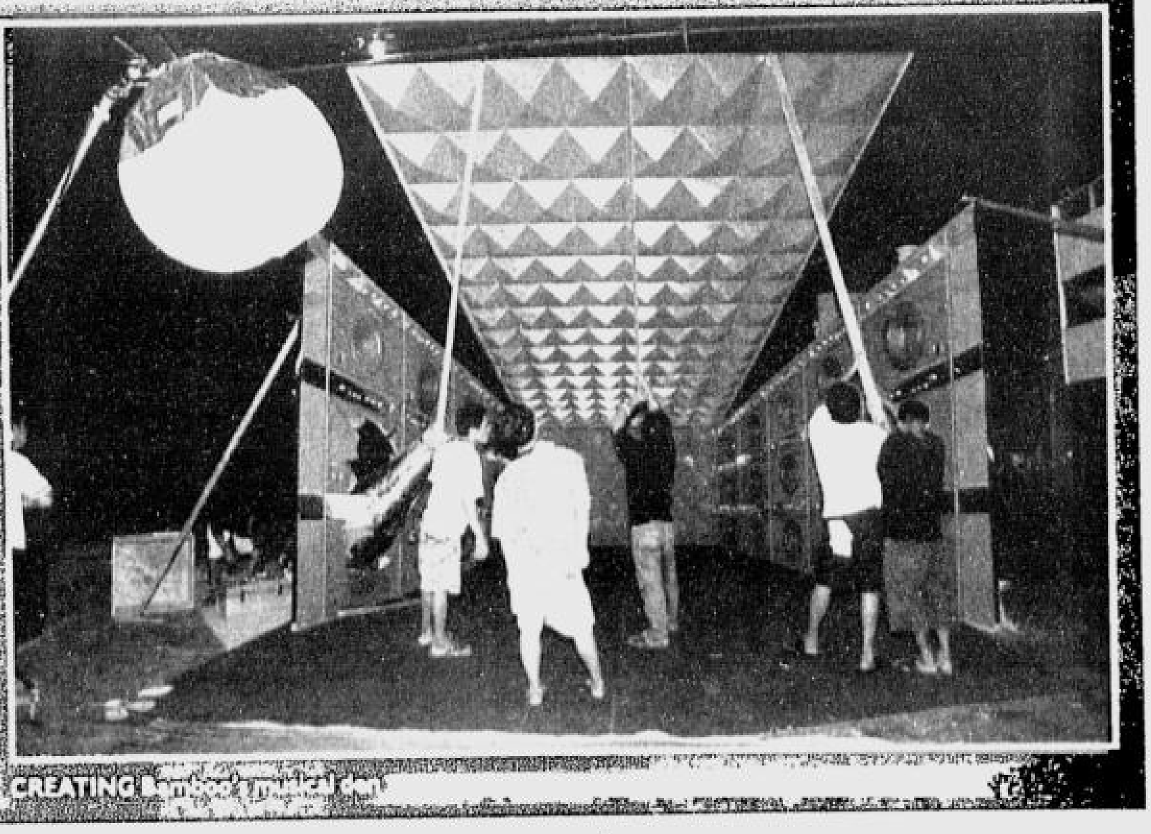
MATTEO'S a natural!

JERICHO ready to surf

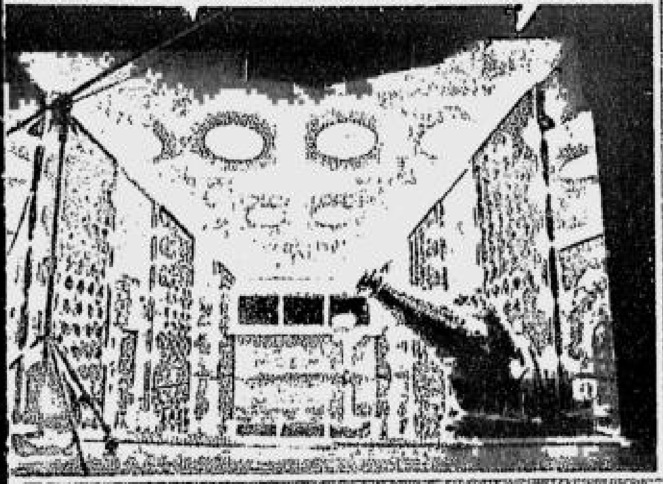
IT'S A WRAP! Millet Arzaga-stylist, Joel Limchoc-BBDO-GO creative director, Nicole, Jenny Pastor-production designer, Jun de Leon, makeup artist Jing Monis, Jericho. Seated: Gino Cruz, BBDO-GO senior account manager, BBDO-GO managing director Randy Aquino and Bamboo



AN ENTIRE set was fabricated for Nicole to simulate a fashionista's studio.

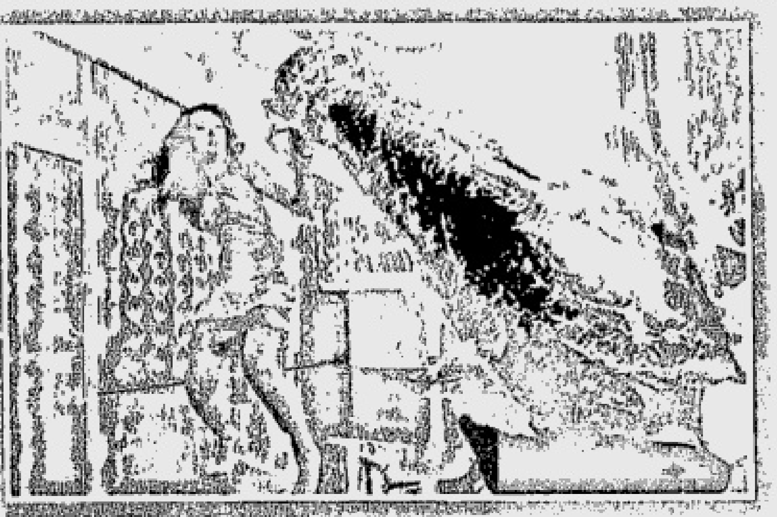


CREATING Bamboo's musical den

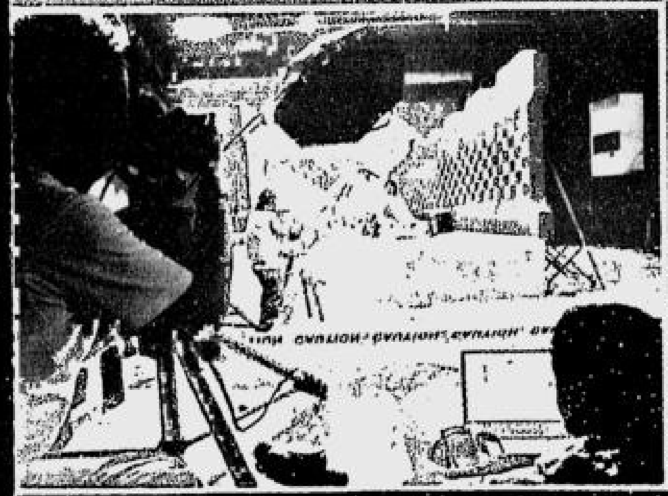


s fashion den.

NICOLE gets ready for her take with makeup artist Chechel Joson and stylist Luis Espiritu.



GLAMMING it up for Pepsi



eon captures Matteo's moments.

MATTEO gets a last-minute retouch from makeup artist Abbygale Arenas-de Leon.

THE KARTING champ on overdrive!

f an electrifying campaign

were a joy to capture on camera.

"Normally, it is hard to get such chemistry from a group with such varied and strong personalities," said photographer Jun de Leon. "It was fortunate that Jericho, Matteo, Nicole and Bamboo not only gelled so fast as a group but also the energy they passed on to each other was so electrifying it made shooting easy and such a pleasure."

The huge production team included BBDO Guerrero Ortega's David Guerrero, chair and chief creative officer; Randy Aquino, managing director; Raoul Panes, executive creative director (copy); Joel Limchoc, creative director (head of art); Golda Aguilar-Roldan, group account director; Francine Kahn-Gonzalez, group account director; Edg Samson, account director; Gino Cruz, senior account manager; Ann Tajonera, account manager; Dale Lopez, art director; and Al Salvador, print producer.

The rest of the team included Jun de Leon, photographer; hair and makeup artists Jing Monis for Bamboo, Chechel Joson for Nicole Hernandez, Abbygale Arenas-de Leon for Matteo, Juan Sarte for Jericho, Millet Arzaga for Bamboo and Jericho, Noel Manapat for Matteo, Luis Espiritu for Nicole Hernandez; Jenny Pastor, production designer; and Raul Davadilla, digital imaging artist.

In the end, these people's collective passion created a visual product that can only carry the message across successfully.

JUN de Leon explaining the blocking to Jericho, Bamboo and Nicole

PEPSI
Nicole
KAYA MO'TO

'Kaya Mo 'To!' . . .

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shunning artifice and tinsel.

Finally, there is Bamboo. The musician has not only come up with a different musical idiom for the band that bears his name; he has also advanced the frontiers of Pinoy rock.

With master lensman Jun de Leon capturing the four, the result is a vibrant campaign.

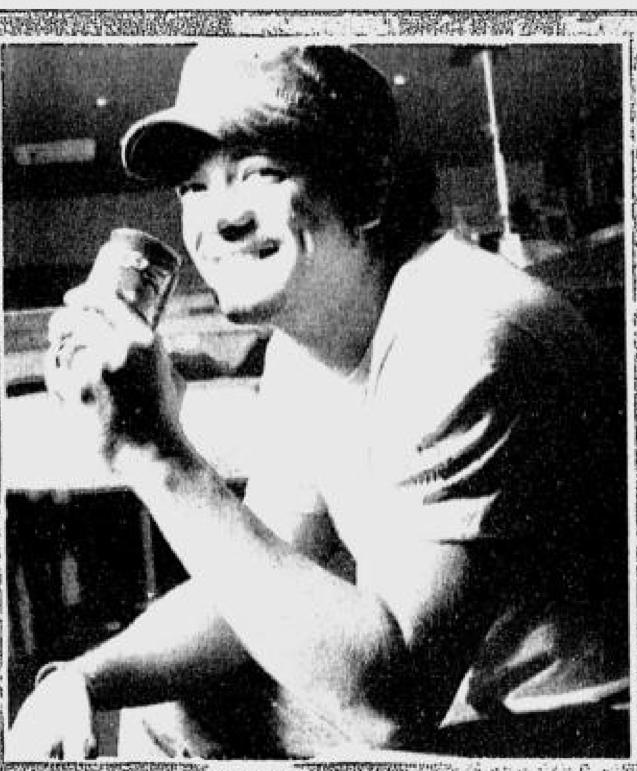
Maricelle Narciso, Pepsi's VP for marketing, said the four endorsers embody Pepsi. "Pepsi is definitely the drink of today's generation. It is the brand that one carries to proclaim that the commonplace, ordinary and average just won't cut it anymore. This is "Kaya Mo 'To," and with our four new ambassadors, that message is louder and clearer than ever."

David Guerrero, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega's chair, agreed. "The ambassadors were chosen because of their powerful characters... They are also inspiring and infectious role models for their generation. They are dream makers. They don't just sit there. They do something."

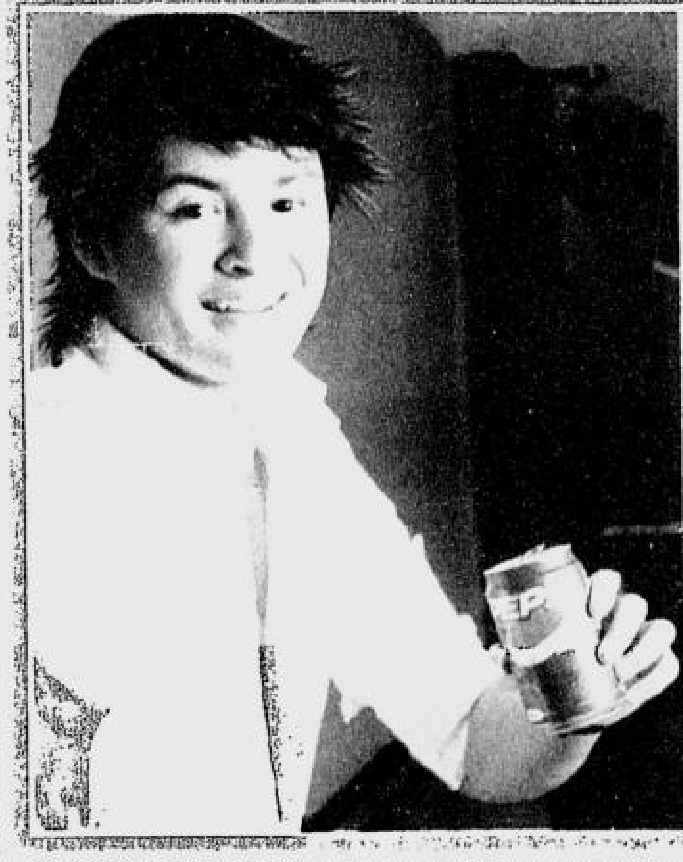
In short, they live and breathe Pepsi's mantra: "Kaya Mo 'To!"

"I started modeling when I was 13 but I never let it affect my studies. Education is the only thing that our parents can leave us."

"Music lets me speak to a larger audience. And Pepsi helps in spreading the word."



"There's nothing wrong in trying; there's nothing wrong in failing. The more experiences you have, the better person you are."



"I think it's in my blood to have this need for speed. It's challenging, exciting, and the adrenaline rush is indescribable."

PEPSI
Jericho
KAYA MO 'TO